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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

**ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS**

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

ETHICS

CHAIRMAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS

**HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 1, 2007

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

Throughout my career in public service, I have lived and led by the belief that “Together we can do it!” That spirit continues to guide my work as I represent you in the United States Senate. By working together and putting our common interests first, we can do great things for our communities. In the following report to my shareholders in Ohio, I am pleased to share what we have accomplished, together, in the 109th Congress.

My first priority lies with my constituents. Every decision I make and every policy I craft aims to improve the lives of Ohioans, and as often as possible, I return home to hear from you firsthand. I then take your ideas back to Washington, where I continue to address the challenges we face in four major areas: assuring fiscal responsibility, increasing national security, protecting American competitiveness and improving government.

Fiscal Responsibility: The choices Congress makes are being measured against a backdrop of growing deficits, rising Medicare and Social Security costs, disaster relief funding, the cost of the Global War on Terror at home and abroad and the challenges of staying competitive in the global marketplace. Since I came to the Senate in 1999, the national debt has increased from \$5.6 trillion to \$8.6 trillion in 2006 – an increase of over 50 percent and almost \$29,000 for every American alive today. However, in today’s dollars, with the budget problems looming as the Baby Boomers retire, we face a long-term fiscal imbalance of \$61 trillion; that’s \$203,000 for every citizen or \$485,000 for every worker. It is unconscionable to pass this debt on to future generations, and I will continue the fight to bring order back to our fiscal house.

National Security: Winning the War on Terror is critical to bringing stability to the Middle East and security to the United States. In particular, bringing stability and peace to Iraq and Afghanistan must remain a priority so they do not export instability and extremist ideology throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. International cooperation will be critical to our success. Cooperation with NATO countries, the European Union, Russia and China will be important to resolving the nuclear crises in Iran and North Korea and bringing about peace in Southeast Europe. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will continue to push for the appropriate attention to these issues as well as increased attention to the contributions of other nations.

American Competitiveness: We are facing fierce competition from an increasingly global marketplace. Maintaining a competitive edge in this environment will take a reinvestment in our number one resource – our people. We must produce highly-educated men and women who have the skills and knowledge to address the challenges we face. We must also develop the technology to become energy independent; work to protect the environment; and provide quality, affordable health care for Americans.

Improving Government: As a public official who has served at nearly every level of government, I am passionate about improving the day-to-day operations of the government to get the most out of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. I have made the reform of the federal workforce one of my top priorities because having the right people with the right skills at the right place at the right time ensures that the government is practicing fiscal responsibility; that our national security needs will be effectively addressed; and that individuals and businesses can focus on building our competitiveness.

This is just an overview of the issues I have been working on in Washington. For further details on the many accomplishments we saw in the 109th Congress, please continue reading. I don't expect that you will read the entire report, but I urge you to look at the Executive Outline and review those areas, if any, which most interest you. If there are items that you would like more information about, please let me know. I also welcome your thoughts on how the report can be improved, as well as your comments on what I have been doing.

Thank you for the privilege to serve Ohio. I look forward to working with you as we make Ohio and the nation a better place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George V. Voinovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Voinovich" clearly legible.

George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich

Report on the 109th Congress

2005-2006

Executive Outline

LETTER FROM THE SENATOR 1

SERVING OHIO FIRST 6

Above all else, Senator Voinovich maintains his commitment and dedication to serving the needs of Ohio.

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities	6
Helping Ohioans Solve Problems.....	6
Communicating with Constituents	7
Connecting with Communities	7
Celebrating Ethnic Events	7
Helping Fund Ohio Projects	7
Ohio Manufacturing’s Biggest Supporter	8
Helping Find Solutions to Ohio’s Health Care Concerns.....	8
Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders	9
NASA Glenn Research Center	9
Closing the Back Door on Indian Gambling	10
Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant	11
Passage of the Highway Bill	11
Better Utilizing Defense Resources: Base Realignment and Closure Process	12
Reaching Out to Appalachian Ohio.....	13
Championing the Appalachian Regional Commission.....	13
Appalachian Regional Development Act of 2006.....	14
Tour of Appalachia	14
Helping Ohio’s Storm Recovery	15
Supporting Services for Veterans.....	15
Opening an Immigration Court in Ohio	16
Bringing Ohio Voices to the Federal Government: Judicial Nominees	16
Protecting the Integrity of the Election Process	16

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY 18

As the U.S. Senate’s leading fiscal conservative, Senator Voinovich seeks ways to responsibly stimulate the economy while fighting deficit growth and curtailing wasteful government spending.

Reducing the Deficit	18
A Vision for the Future: Truth in Budgeting	18
Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits.....	19
Pushing for Accountability in Federal Spending.....	19
Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Programs: The SAFE Commission.....	19
Fundamental Tax Reform.....	20

NATIONAL SECURITY

23

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the senator has focused on several key issues including the War on Terrorism, combating anti-Semitism, expanding public diplomacy, monitoring United Nations reform, and peace and stability in Southeast Europe.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee	23
War on Terror.....	23
Progress in Iraq	23
Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance	24
Reform at the United Nations.....	24
Public Diplomacy.....	25
Strengthening the Alliance: Helping Extend NATO Membership.....	25
Future Status of Kosovo.....	26
Funding Defense Priorities.....	26
Funding Ohio Defense Projects.....	27

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

31

Senator Voinovich works hard to stimulate the economy and create jobs, preserve Ohio's ability to compete in the global marketplace, improve health care and education, and protect public health and the environment.

Health Partnership Act	31
Federal Employees Personal Health Records Act	31
Strengthening and Improving Medicare and Guaranteeing a Prescription Drug Benefit	32
Ensuring the Safe Reimportation of Prescription Drugs	33
Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries	33
Supporting Community Health Centers	33
Advancing Adult, Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Research	33
Training Physicians to Serve All Our Nation's Children	34
Improving Our Nation's Competitiveness: Math and Science Education	34
Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness	35
Early Childhood Program Collaboration.....	36
Encouraging Reading Among Children	36
School Readiness Solutions Group	37
Protecting Ohio's Auto Industry	37
Urging Caution Over United States-Korea Trade Negotiations	37
Leveling the Playing Field: Ending China's Currency Manipulation	38
Protecting Intellectual Property Rights	38
Protecting State Economic Development Incentives: CUNO v. DaimlerChrysler.....	40
Working to Enact Asbestos Legislation	40
Reforming America's Troubled Tort System.....	41
Second Declaration of Independence	41
A Comprehensive Energy Policy: the Energy Bill.....	41
Energy Summit with Ohio University's CE3.....	42
Clean Air	43
Bringing Cleveland Into Compliance.....	44
Support for Sensible Reductions of Mercury Emissions.....	44
Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment.....	45
Providing for the Safe and Secure Growth of Nuclear Power.....	45
Great Lakes Restoration and Protection from Aquatic Invasive Species	46
Funding for Ohio Through Energy and Water Appropriations	47
Cleaning Up Brownfield Sites.....	48
Combating the Emerald Ash Borer	49

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT

51

As a public servant who has served at every level of government, Senator Voinovich has a wealth of management experience that he draws upon to help improve the quality and efficiency of the services that the federal government provides to the nation's taxpayers.

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee Chairman	51
Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce	52
Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act	54
Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act	55
Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs	55
Improving the Department of Defense's Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter	55
Improving the Federal Government's Security Clearance Procedures.....	56
Review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act	56
Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security	57
Improving Federal Emergency Management and Disaster Relief Policy.....	58
Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector.....	58
Securing the National Capital Region	59
Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia	59
Better Management in the District of Columbia	60
Sustaining the Postal Service	60

AWARDS AND HONORS

62

Serving Ohio First

Back when I was a state representative and just beginning my career in government, I was asked how I would confront the problems of Ohio if I had a magic wand. My answer then was the same as it is now: I would use it to reconstitute and protect the family, which is the foundation of this country and the reason why most of us get up in the morning, go to work and hurry to get home at the end of the day.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Letter to the Editor, July 18, 2005

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities

Senator Voinovich refers to Janet, his wife of 44 years, as his first great love and the state of Ohio as his second. Born and raised in Cleveland, he still lives in the same house he and Janet purchased in 1972, where they raised their children. When Congress is not in session, he takes every opportunity to return to Ohio and meet with the people he serves. Whether it was touring Cincinnati's Riverfront project or talking to Cincinnatians about new market tax credits, hosting an energy summit in Columbus, discussing the manufacturing climate with workers in Cleveland, helping seniors in Findlay understand the new Medicare prescription drug benefit or talking about economic development in southeast Ohio, Senator Voinovich maintained a busy schedule during the 109th Congress. He crisscrossed Ohio to be accessible to the people he serves, to learn firsthand what's on their minds, and to share with them what he has accomplished in the Senate.

Helping Ohioans Solve Problems

In 1999, Senator Voinovich teamed up with Ohio's senior senator, Mike DeWine, to create a joint casework office that helps Ohioans solve problems with federal agencies and programs. In the 109th Congress, the senators' experienced casework staff opened more than 11,900 cases, and brought a successful close to over 70 percent of them. They also fielded countless phone calls. Following are excerpts from letters of thanks the senator received:

- "This letter is being sent in gratitude for your aggressive response to a request for assistance by one of our valued employees... It was apparent as this process played out that without your staff's attention and diligence our employee would have been left to deal with the emotional and financial impact of his wife's death alone." *P.M., Columbus, Ohio*
- "I wanted to write to express our sincere appreciation of all of the time and effort you spent in helping us obtain a visa for our employee... I know you spent endless hours on the situation and for that we are very grateful. It is gratifying to know that our senators are ready and willing to go to bat for their constituents in this way... Please know that we could not have accomplished this without your diligent help." *M.R., Cincinnati, Ohio*
- "Your staff made me feel like a priority when I am sure that they had a list of people that were requiring their assistance. I can't begin to imagine the number of phone calls that you receive each day for help. However, the kindness and promptness with which your office responded to me will NEVER be forgotten. I doubt that there is anything I can ever do to repay you and your staff for this outstanding level of service that made it possible for me and my son to spend his 1st birthday together. I will forever be grateful." *M.G., North Royalton, Ohio*
- "I cannot thank you enough for all you have done to expedite my sister's social security disability case... We are fully aware of the fact that had you not intervened she would still be waiting for a court date. Having this has taken a great deal of stress out of her life at a time that she really needs to be focused on her health... You are truly a man who cares about the people you represent." *C.P., Maple Heights, Ohio*

Communicating with Constituents

Senator Voinovich places the needs of Ohioans before all else. That's why throughout his entire career in public service, he has always considered the policy concerns of Ohioans when making decisions. In fact, during the 109th Congress Senator Voinovich and his staff responded to more than 130,000 pieces of correspondence and countless phone calls from Ohioans regarding policy issues. The senator's staff also fulfilled 835 requests for American flags and arranged tours of the U.S. Capitol for approximately 650 groups.

Connecting with Communities

Senator Voinovich's five offices throughout the state of Ohio play a vital role in community outreach and help him stay in tune with the issues of concern to Ohioans when he is at work in Washington. One way the senator stays connected with Ohioans is through office hours held by each of his district representatives. These office hours provide constituents a unique opportunity to talk in person with a representative who will bring their concerns directly back to the senator. District representatives visit all 88 counties at least once every year.

Celebrating Ethnic Events

Since his early days as an elected official, Senator Voinovich has made it a priority to keep in touch with neighborhood and community groups. Over the years he has participated in many ethnic celebrations. In June 2006, he celebrated his Slovenian roots by participating in "Slovenian Days 2006." This event marked a month-long anniversary of the 15th anniversary of independence for the nation of Slovenia. It included heritage presentations at Cleveland City Hall, film festivals and art exhibits. The month was capped off when Senator Voinovich welcomed Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša to Cleveland, as the two discussed relations between Slovenia and Ohio. Senator Voinovich also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution in October, when Cleveland's Hungarian community hosted a weekend full of events to honor the Hungarian freedom fighters of 1956. The senator was the keynote speaker at the Cleveland Hungarian Revolution gala.

Helping Fund Ohio Projects

Senator Voinovich works hard to guide Ohioans through the arduous task of securing federal discretionary grants for worthwhile projects. In 2005 and 2006, the senator drafted more than 220 letters of support and responded to over 387 requests for grant information. Thanks to his help, Ohioans secured almost \$63 million in federal grants. Some of the highlights include:

- \$20 million to the Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority to revitalize the Lincoln Park public housing development;
- \$3.2 million to the Ohio Board of Regents for mobile technologies to improve math and science learning in underperforming schools. The project will establish a multi-state K-16 consortium comprised of educational, telecommunications and research agencies in Ohio, Kansas, New Mexico and California;
- \$600,000 to the city of Gahanna to fund a Brownfields program. The city will redevelop the Bedford Landfill site into a high-tech industrial and office development that will generate 100 new jobs and promote redevelopment in the surrounding area;
- \$700,000 to the City of Wellston to make access road improvements for South New Hampshire Avenue in the City of Wellston. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds will be used for engineering design and improvements;
- \$772,459 to the Hamilton County Success by 6 Community Council for the Early Learning Opportunities Act Program. This program works closely with parents and child care providers to deliver education and capacity building activities. In collaboration with the United Way of

Cincinnati, funding will enable the Council to help ensure children are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten;

- \$5.1 million to the Eliza Bryant Center in Cleveland to fund the Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program. The grant will provide 48 additional one bedroom units for low-income seniors;
- \$1.9 million to the Medical University of Ohio for the Advanced Technology Park on the health science campus. The university will provide matching funds to build roadways and install sewer lines, fiber-optic cables, and electrical infrastructure in the park, which will house emerging businesses;
- \$300,000 to the University of Cincinnati for the Sickle Cell Demonstration Program, which will enable Cincinnati Children's Hospital to enhance the prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease. In collaboration with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, the Children's Hospital aims to provide a medical home for the transition of medically fragile sickle cell adolescents and young adults; and
- \$1.4 million to the Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action Organization (CAO). The CAO's Rural Health Initiative Program operates four ambulatory medical centers in Lawrence County, serving many residents who would not otherwise have access to health care.

Ohio Manufacturing's Biggest Supporter

Manufacturing is responsible for roughly 20 percent of Ohio's gross state product; thus, the state of Ohio's manufacturers – both large and small – is important to the well-being of Ohioans. More than 800,000 jobs in Ohio are a direct result of manufacturing, and Senator Voinovich continues to work on behalf of manufacturers in the U.S. Senate.

Significant problems continue to threaten Ohio's manufacturers. Soaring costs for energy and health care, unfair foreign trade practices – especially from China, and trial attorneys who abuse our courts have descended upon the industry. Nevertheless, the senator continues to work to strengthen Ohio's manufacturing industry. He is actively working to build an infrastructure of competitiveness to allow our businesses to compete in the global economy, and is achieving this by working with his colleagues to address health care, energy and trade issues.

Helping Find Solutions to Ohio's Health Care Concerns

Access to affordable, quality health care continues to be a concern for Ohio's families and to Senator Voinovich. In order to help find solutions and explain new federal programs that can help, Senator Voinovich traveled across the state to learn about the health care concerns of Ohio's families, seniors and veterans. While Senator Voinovich continues to work on legislation to address the health care needs of all Americans, he believes the addition of a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program will have the single biggest impact on our seniors' health since the creation of the Medicare program in 1965. Since the passage of the new voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Senator Voinovich has personally held 31 meetings across Ohio to explain the new benefit in conjunction with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Ohio Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Information on this benefit can be found by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227) or visiting www.MEDICARE.gov. Questions can also be directed to the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) at 1-800-686-1578.

Further, since 2003, representatives from the senator's office have reached over 6,300 beneficiaries at over 500 meetings and events, where they helped to explain how the new Medicare prescription drug benefit could help them, listened to Ohio's seniors and then reported their concerns back to the senator. Senator Voinovich also produced an informational video to help explain the importance and details of the new benefit, and created an original four-page color brochure to accompany the video. The video became a model for other Senate offices.

Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders

Senator Voinovich has long supported the efforts of our emergency first responders. The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program was created to assist in developing an effective emergency response system at the state and local level that can handle disasters and emergencies of all types and sizes. The EMPG program is the only source of federal assistance to state and local governments for emergency management capacity building. EMPG funds are used for personnel, planning, training and exercises at the state and local levels. Despite its effectiveness, the EMPG program is under-funded. In 2005 it was funded at \$185 million, including an additional \$5 million in funding secured by Senator Voinovich. In 2006, the senator was able to secure an additional \$15 million for the program over the allocation in 2005.

After September 11, 2001, Ohio Task Force One, comprised of Miami Valley-area fire and rescue personnel, was one of the first to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center. As a result of their heroic efforts, many were exposed to a wide range of hazardous conditions, posing risks to their physical and psychological well-being. Though the health concerns of those first responders were eventually met, no permanent program was implemented to monitor the health of our first responders in the event of another attack or disaster.

Senator Voinovich introduced S. 1741, the Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2005, because FEMA does not currently have authority to conduct long-term monitoring of health impacts from environmental exposures in the wake of a disaster. This legislation would allow the president to carry out a program for the protection, assessment, monitoring and study of the health and safety of people exposed to harmful substances. Senator Voinovich offered the bill as an amendment to the Port Security Improvement Act of 2006, which was subsequently signed into law in October 2006.

NASA Glenn Research Center

Ohio is a national leader in high-tech aviation and aeronautics research in part because of organizations like the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. The NASA Glenn Research Center is also a leading contributor to Ohio's economic and academic vitality, contributing more than \$1 billion to the state's economy annually and creating more than 12,000 jobs. NASA Glenn is a vital component for both NASA and greater Northeast Ohio, and Senator Voinovich continues to support this lynchpin of Northeast Ohio's economy.

In 2006, NASA announced that NASA Glenn would manage the work on the Crew Exploration Vehicle's (CEV) service module and the upper stage of the Crew Launch Vehicle (CLV). This project award will support approximately 100 jobs currently at Glenn. This project is a critical component of NASA's new "Vision for Space Exploration" and will help NASA Glenn remain a leading NASA facility. The senator was active in promoting NASA Glenn's facilities and wrote a letter to Administrator Griffin touting their extensive experience to manage the CEV.

The senator was pleased that with his support, funding for Aeronautics Research in the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) appropriations was \$912.6 million, \$60 million above the president's proposal. Senator Voinovich also helped secure \$1.1 million for NASA Glenn research and technology programs in advanced aeronautics, including turbine engine research, in the Fiscal Year 2006 CJS Conference Report.

The senator was pleased that the Senate version of the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act included a provision for which he fought requiring a report on cooperation by the Department of Defense and NASA regarding areas of mutual interest, including aeronautics research and propulsion and power technologies.

By using a parliamentary procedure, in July 2005 Senator Voinovich held passage of the NASA Authorization Act, which sets NASA's long-term agenda, until he was able to negotiate a series of amendments to protect NASA Glenn and the Northeast Ohio aerospace and academic communities. The

NASA Authorization Act became law on December 30, 2005. The amendments include language directing NASA to:

- **Conduct a human health and safety program supporting human space flight missions.** This program would utilize expertise at NASA Glenn and area partners, such as the Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, to develop medical monitoring, cardiac health and other programs to aid space exploration;
- **Develop advanced surface power systems for use on the moon and Mars.** A central requirement for NASA's planned moon and Mars operations is a reliable source of power. NASA Glenn is the recognized leader in this area, having led development of power systems for the International Space Station. Glenn is expected to be the lead within the agency for this program;
- **Fully utilize existing staff at NASA field centers for work associated with the Vision for Space Exploration.** This requirement dictates that NASA must look internally first when assigning new projects. The bill also requires NASA to balance space exploration projects between field centers to utilize capabilities such as power and propulsion at NASA Glenn;
- **Continue the successful and longstanding commercialization program until a new program is approved by Congress.** NASA Glenn is home to numerous commercialization programs – which focus on transferring technology into and out of NASA – including the Great Lakes Innovation and Technology Center and the Glenn Alliance for Technology Exchange. This language keeps those programs open as the administration works to establish a broad new approach to commercial technology;
- **Maintain a prohibition on reductions-in-force until June 1, 2007,** giving agency planners and staff members time to begin carrying out new space exploration and aeronautics policies before rushing headlong into major staffing decisions; and
- **Carry out elements of a new aeronautics program authored by Senator Mike DeWine that calls for reinvigorated research** in key areas of strength at NASA Glenn, including hypersonics, propulsion, environmental aircraft development and fuel cells. The program protects aeronautics test facilities, and lays out specific considerations for the president and NASA administrator as they formulate a comprehensive National Aeronautics Policy.

In addition, in March 2005, during Senate consideration of the Budget Resolution, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored a Sense of the Senate amendment with Senators George Allen (R-VA), John Warner (R-VA) and Mike DeWine (R-OH) that called for increased funding for the vehicle systems portion of the Aeronautics Mission Directorate budget for use in subsonic and hypersonic aeronautical research. The amendment acknowledged that aeronautics funding is important to our nation's economic and military security and that NASA aeronautics work has played a critical role in the growth of our nation's aeronautics industry.

In March 2006, during Senate consideration of the Budget Resolution, Senator Voinovich also co-sponsored another amendment with Senators Allen, Warner and DeWine to provide a \$179 million increase in NASA aeronautics funding for Fiscal Year 2007. With this amendment, NASA aeronautics programs would receive \$903 million for FY07, equivalent to the enacted level of funding for FY06. The president's budget request sought \$724 million for the aeronautics program. The amendment was accepted.

Closing the Back Door on Indian Gambling

Senator Voinovich is opposed to bringing gambling to Ohio for one simple reason – families. The statistics speak for themselves: divorce rates, suicides rates and bankruptcy rates are all higher among gamblers than non-gamblers, and violent crime rates “spike” in casino counties, as do embezzlement and fraud rates. Nevertheless, state and local community planners are enticed by the promise of job creation

and a stronger tax base. The reality, however, is that every tax dollar that comes from casino gambling results in \$3 in social welfare costs.

The explosive growth of Indian “reservation shopping” and gambling is becoming a problem in Ohio and a number of states nationwide. Currently, there are over 400 tribal casinos in 30 states. According to the National Indian Gaming Commission, tribal casinos generated \$22.62 billion in revenue last year. To build on the financial success of these tribal casinos, some Native American tribes are aggressively seeking to take gambling off reservations and into local communities. In this practice, commonly called “reservation shopping,” tribes are looking to acquire new land – not contiguous to their existing reservation – to open casinos near large communities or next to major roads with easy access.

In response to the threat of reservation shopping nationwide, Senator Voinovich authored an amendment to the Interior Department spending bill that would prevent land from being put into trust for the purpose of opening a gambling establishment without approval of a state’s governor, though he withdrew the amendment because Senator John McCain (R-AZ), chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, agreed to hold a hearing on the proposal. This hearing took place on July 27, 2005.

Senator Voinovich testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee regarding this issue and introduced legislation to amend IGRA, requiring that casino-style gambling on Indian lands be allowed only in states that permit such gambling in their constitutions. The legislation was co-sponsored by Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH).

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Senator Voinovich has been committed to securing the future of nuclear enrichment in Piketon since the privatization of USEC, the world’s leading supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants, in 1998. The culmination of these efforts occurred in December 2002 with USEC’s announcement of Portsmouth as the location for its lead cascade demonstration project, where it will demonstrate enhancements to the Department of Energy’s already proven centrifuge uranium enrichment technology. USEC expects to have the lead cascade machines installed and operating by mid-2007. The American Centrifuge in Piketon employs approximately 100 people.

In January 2004, USEC announced that they will site an approximately \$1.5 billion commercial gas centrifuge plant in Portsmouth. Hundreds of construction jobs will be created over the next decade, and once the plant is operational, it will employ approximately 500 highly skilled workers.

In 2005, Senator Voinovich fought to ensure that the Energy and Water Conference Report fully funded the Portsmouth cleanup, omitting the potential cut of \$17 million. He sent letters to conferees and to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman on the topic. As a result, the \$17 million was not cut, and the full \$192.2 million was received in the conference report.

Passage of the Highway Bill

As a “just in time” state – a state that does not store large inventories and therefore relies on timely deliveries to keep operations going – Ohio depends on its highway infrastructure, and delays negatively affect its economy. Since Ohio lies midway between Chicago and the East Coast, it is a national crossroads for the distribution of manufacturing goods, automotive production, agricultural commodities and international trade. Senator Voinovich knows it is essential to invest in our state’s transportation infrastructure and, along with 88 of his colleagues, he voted in support of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 (SAFETEA). In fact, the senator played a key role in securing funding for Ohio as a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and as a conferee on the SAFETEA conference committee. The senator’s work to ensure that states like Ohio do not get penalized for their use of ethanol resulted in an increased rate of return on Ohio’s gas tax money from 90.5 to 92 percent. This was an important provision because previously money from the ethanol tax went to the General Fund rather than the Highway Trust Fund.

This highway reauthorization bill creates thousands of jobs. The bill, which was signed into law by the president in August 2005, was the result of a long, bipartisan process. It was based on more than three years of work, over a dozen hearings, testimony from more than 100 witnesses and countless hours of negotiation. The bill was supported by a deep and broad coalition – from state and local highway authorities to national safety advocates.

For Ohio, SAFETEA:

- Creates more than 20,000 highway-related jobs over the life of the bill;
- Provides \$6.646 billion over five years for highways – which is a 36 percent increase in funding over the last transportation bill (total funding for Ohio roads would be \$400 million less without the changes that Senator Voinovich pushed for last Congress to have states like Ohio not penalized for their use of ethanol);
- Increases Ohio's rate of return from 90.5 to 92 cents of every gas tax dollar collected in Ohio and sent to Washington; and
- Provides \$859.353 million over five years for transit – which is a 29 percent increase over the last transportation bill.

Amendments included in Highway Conference Report:

- **School Bus Retrofits (Clean School Bus):** This amendment authorizes an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program to provide grants to replace or retrofit school buses to reduce harmful emissions and improve air quality.
- **School Bus Drivers:** This amendment saves the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) \$2 million because school bus drivers with experience prior to September 30, 2002, will not have to take an additional written knowledge test since the approved Ohio test already meets the new federal standards. ODE will maintain the same safety standards for school bus drivers without spending \$2 million to retest drivers.
- **Bridges:** This amendment increases the federal match for the highway bridge program from 80 percent to 90 percent, if the bridge is on the interstate system.
- **University Transportation Centers:** This amendment designates the Ohio Higher Education Transportation Consortium (OHETC) as a University Transportation Center (UTC) in Ohio. The UTC will be designated at the University of Akron in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Kent State University, The Ohio State University and Youngstown State University. The OHETC will focus on conducting applied research, providing quality education to future transportation professionals, and disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge and technology for implementation in current and future transportation systems. This amendment also designates the University of Toledo as a UTC in Ohio. The University of Toledo will be working in partnership with the University of Detroit Mercy, Grand Valley State University, Wayne State University and Bowling Green State University. The purpose of the UTC will be to develop technology-enabled intermodal transportation systems and supply chains that promote economic development and quality of life.

Although passage of the highway bill was a major victory, Senator Voinovich believes the bill falls short of the funding needed to maintain our highway infrastructure; particularly, because of the cost of steel and asphalt, the bill will not keep up with inflation.

Better Utilizing Defense Resources: Base Realignment and Closure Process

Senator Voinovich supported the underlying goals of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC), aimed at streamlining U.S. defense infrastructure to reduce excess spending and better utilize U.S. tax dollars and U.S. defense resources. The senator worked tirelessly in 2005 and 2006 to ensure the BRAC process was conducted in a fair and sensible manner and that the established laws and criteria

related to the BRAC process were followed. He also worked with his colleagues in Congress to prevent the closure of critical defense installations. As a result, Ohio gained a total of 5,000 jobs under BRAC. It is now projected that Ohio will gain a total of 10,000 jobs taking into account non-defense sector jobs that are likely to come to Ohio as a result of the changes.

In 2006, Senator Voinovich devoted himself to the work needed to follow up on the BRAC outcomes and ensure they would be implemented fairly, effectively and in accordance with the law. The senator met with Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne to raise his concerns that Wright-Patterson Air Force Base may not receive the jobs associated with the realignment of the Defense Fielding and Systems Group (DFSG). As a result, he was assured the plan would be implemented as directed. Additionally, the senator followed up closely on the final decision to save the Defense Financing Accounting Services (DFAS) in Cleveland and Columbus and to transform DFAS. He was in regular contact with Zack Gaddy, the Director of DFAS, regarding his final recommendation on transformation.

Among his other priorities, the senator has remained closely coordinated with the Ohio National Guard regarding the BRAC plans to transform the Mansfield and Springfield Air National Guard bases into enclave bases set to lose their respective flying units and receive new missions. The senator has been an avid supporter of assigning Springfield a new mission for training fighter pilots to fly jets they purchased through foreign military sales. On July 31, 2006, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force to support his decision to assign the training mission for Dutch pilots to the 178th Air Wing at Springfield Air Base. Pilots for the Royal Netherlands Air Force Guard will be trained to fly F-16 fighter jets at the Springfield base. The pact will run from May 2007 through September 2010.

Likewise, Senator Voinovich wrote to General H. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to encourage him to bridge the airlift mission of the 179th and retain their invaluable expertise. Senator Voinovich strongly supported the decision to assign Mansfield the Joint Cargo Aircraft to continue a legacy in air-lift. On July 25, 2006, Senator Voinovich wrote to the Armed Services Committee to ask for their support in funding the Joint Cargo Aircraft in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act.

In 2007, Senator Voinovich will continue to support Ohio's defense bases and the multitude of opportunities that have resulted from the 2005 BRAC decisions.

Reaching Out to Appalachian Ohio

Senator Voinovich has long advocated for improving the infrastructure of Appalachian Ohio and helping the region meet its economic development needs. He operates an office in Appalachian Ohio to ensure citizens from the region can easily visit with his staff to seek assistance. Strategically located in Nelsonville, the senator's Southeast Ohio office provides local responsiveness on issues of importance to the region's communities.

Championing the Appalachian Regional Commission

During his first term in the Senate, Senator Voinovich authored the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 2002. The bill reauthorized the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which plays a key role in fostering economic development and improving quality of life for the 23 million people who live and work in Appalachia. This bill included a special, Voinovich-created telecommunications initiative to help bridge the "digital divide" between Appalachia and the rest of the nation. Since ARC's inception in the 1960s, the 13-state region of Appalachia has seen its poverty rate cut in half (from 31 percent to 13 percent), its infant mortality rate reduced by two-thirds, and the percentage of adults with high school education increased by over 70 percent.

Appalachian Ohio has seen great benefit from ARC investments. ARC funds have been utilized for a variety of economic development initiatives, including new telecommunications capacities within the region's educational institutions, early childhood education initiatives and high school drop-out prevention programs, community technical assistance projects, workforce training, community health

projects, and expansions in basic water and sewer infrastructures. In 2005, Ohio leveraged its \$4.85 million federal ARC allocation with an additional \$16.35 million in other public funds, including state general revenue funds, and \$20 million in private funds. Over the last five years, ARC investments in Ohio have included \$24.85 million in non-highway funds and \$118.7 million in highway funds.

Appalachian Regional Development Act of 2006

On May 18, 2006, the senator introduced legislation to reauthorize the ARC at \$510.9 million over five years. This legislation passed the Senate on July 16, 2006. The proposed legislation creates the designation of economically “at risk” counties and provides an appropriate federal matching rate for ARC-funded projects in those counties. Key elements of the legislation are as follows:

- **Renews the Appalachian Regional Commission for five years (2007 – 2011).** The proposed legislation is the same length as the bipartisan authorization Congress approved in 2002.
- **Authorizes the Commission for five years at the following levels:**
 - 2007: \$95.2 million
 - 2008: \$98.6 million
 - 2009: \$102 million
 - 2010: \$105.7 million
 - 2011: \$109.4 million
- **Directs the Commission annually to designate those counties that are “at risk” of becoming economically distressed.** These counties have fragile economies that are just on the cusp of meeting the criteria for being designated as distressed. The Commission itself recently adopted this targeting classification. The legislation would codify the Commission’s existing practice.
- **Permits ARC to fund projects in the “at risk” counties at up to 70 percent of the cost of the project.** Under current law, these projects may only be funded at 50 percent (the match rate for most ARC counties), while projects in designated distressed counties can be funded at 80 percent of the project costs. This provision reflects the special needs of “at risk” counties.
- **Continues all existing programmatic authorities, including the special program in telecommunications and technology.** The bill proposes no changes in ARC’s general programs, nor does it create any new authorities because of the strong history of accomplishment.

Tour of Appalachia

In April 2006, Senator Voinovich joined ARC Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope in a tour of ARC projects, which included visits to a variety of regional educational institutions:

- **Game Research and Immersive Design or “GRID Lab” at Ohio University:** The senator toured the “GRID Lab” to learn how ARC funds have been utilized to support research, training and the opportunity to develop technical and creative skills through the use of interactive digital game technology.
- **Buckeye Joint Vocational School District Career Center in New Philadelphia:** The senator presented an \$80,000 ARC grant award for the development of a new Communication Technologies program that will help connect the region’s workforce with jobs in the emerging industries of wireless technology and security systems.
- **Zane State College in Zanesville:** The senator learned how ARC is partnering with educational institutions and utilities to prepare the region’s students for the many jobs expected to become available in the utilities industry as older workers retire. The senator heard firsthand from students taking advantage of the ARC-supported utilities industry program at Zane State, a partnership between universities in the Appalachian states of Kentucky and West Virginia and American Electric Power.

- **Miller High School in Perry County:** The senator met with students participating in the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education (OACHE) program. OACHE is a model higher education access program that started in Ohio, and through the work of ARC, has been replicated in nine other Appalachian states. During his visit, the senator learned that Miller High School lacked resources to utilize existing technological infrastructure for distance learning. In October 2006, the senator was happy to announce the ARC approved a \$23,000 grant to Southern Local Schools to help bridge the gap between high school and post-secondary education by supporting college-access distance learning activities in Miller High School. The project will make Advanced Placement (AP) and other college-level courses available earlier to students, provide opportunity for expansion of the curriculum offerings and allow the school to have contact with other schools via distance learning.

As part of the tour, on April 20, 2006, the senator chaired a Committee on Environment and Public Works field hearing in Marietta, Ohio, to hear testimony on the impact of the last reauthorization of the ARC and issues regarding the upcoming reauthorization. The hearing included special panels focusing on the needs and progress of the region in the areas of telecommunications and basic water and sewer infrastructure.

Helping Ohio's Storm Recovery

When severe weather strikes, emergency response may overwhelm local governments. In some cases, federal assistance is necessary for rebuilding and recovery. Following the devastating storms that tore through Ohio in December 2004, Senator Voinovich supported a request to President Bush that he declare a major disaster for the state of Ohio. The winter storms, which produced heavy snowfall, freezing rain, ice, sleet, high wind, bitter cold temperatures, severe storms and flooding, caused:

- an estimated \$127.5 million in damage to local public infrastructure, including costs of emergency protective measures and repairs to rural electrical cooperatives;
- more than \$123 million in insured losses classified as catastrophic; and
- an estimated \$18 million in federal disaster assistance for individuals.

It was determined that the severity and magnitude of this incident was beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, which prompted the request for emergency assistance for snow removal. Senator Voinovich wrote a letter of support encouraging President Bush to grant this request for emergency assistance. On January 11, 2005, the president granted the request and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area. Assistance was made available on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures that were undertaken to save lives and protect public health, safety and property.

On July 22, 2006, severe storms pounded northeast Ohio. Excessive rain led to significant flooding in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties. Preliminary Damage Assessments estimated public sector damage recovery costs in excess of \$13 million. At the request of Governor Bob Taft and supported by Senator Voinovich, these counties were granted Individual Assistance, which includes grants for temporary housing, repairs to damaged homes, and other serious disaster-related expenses, as well as low-interest loans to businesses not fully compensated by insurance. Following a visit to the affected areas, the senator wrote a letter to Undersecretary David Paulison at the Federal Emergency Management Agency requesting Public Assistance. Public Assistance allows state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations to receive funding for critical infrastructure repairs, such as to damaged roadways and bridges. Both Individual and Public Assistance were granted.

Supporting Services for Veterans

The senator believes it is important to provide continuing support to veterans who have served their country. They kept their promise to defend our nation, and the nation must in turn keep its promises to veterans.

- **Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome:** On December 22, 2005, with Senator Voinovich's full support, the Senate passed S. 1182, the Veterans Health Care Act of 2005. This important legislation provides a co-payment exemption for veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as providing hospice care and extended care services. The bill also directs the Secretary of the VA to expand and improve mental health services provided to veterans for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). With increased stress to our forces, especially in Iraq, the senator believes it is critical that Congress provide the VA with the resources it needs to address PTSD. With support from Senator Voinovich, the VA developed an Iraqi War guide for clinicians to assess new veterans for PTSD, depression and substance abuse; implemented a national system of 144 specialized PTSD programs in all states; and required all VA outpatient clinics to either have a psychiatrist or psychologist on staff full-time or ensure that veterans can consult a mental health provider in their community.
- **Ensuring Due Compensation:** In 2005, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs revealed a disparity in the disability compensation received by some veterans. In order to ensure that Ohio's veterans receive the same rate and quality of health care as other veterans across the nation, Senator Voinovich supported a provision (Section 228) of the Fiscal Year 2006 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs spending bill that requires the VA to provide veterans in Ohio with information on their lower compensation payments and instructions on how to apply for new claims. Senator Voinovich believed this provision was absolutely critical so that Ohio's veterans have the information necessary to apply for and receive their due compensation so they are not shortchanged on their health care benefits.

Opening an Immigration Court in Ohio

Until 2006, Ohio was one of 27 states that did not have its own Immigration Court. All of Ohio's immigration cases were heard via video and teleconferencing technology by the Immigration Court in Arlington, VA. With several thousand immigration matters from Ohio pending before the Arlington Immigration Court, in late 2005, the Executive Office for Immigration Review moved forward to establish an immigration court in Cleveland. The court opened on September 29, 2006. The new court will ensure more timely review of cases for individuals in Northeast Ohio and will give more applicants for asylum fair, in-person proceedings. Senator Voinovich requested an Immigration Court in a letter he co-signed with Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, and both senators continued to work closely with the Justice Department to ensure that it was successfully established.

Bringing Ohio Voices to the Federal Government: Judicial Nominees

Senator Voinovich worked closely with Ohio's senior senator, Mike DeWine, and the president to ensure that the best Ohio lawyers were represented on the federal bench. Specifically, the senators worked hard to nominate: Judge Sara Lioi of Canton for the position of U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; Judge Jack Zouhary of Toledo for the position of U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; and Judge Michael Ryan Barrett of Cincinnati for the position of U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. On March 16, 2006, the Senate confirmed Judge Zouhary, and on May 1, 2006, the Senate confirmed Judge Barrett. In April 2006, the senators recommended Judge Lioi to President Bush, and on July 13, the White House approved their recommendation. Judge Lioi was reviewed and passed by the Judiciary Committee and is now awaiting confirmation by the full Senate.

Protecting the Integrity of the Election Process

In an effort to protect the integrity of the election process and ensure that all who wish to participate in an election are free to cast a ballot, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored S. 2703, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. The

Voting Rights Act of 2006 would extend and add to the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA). The VRA prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color or membership in a specified language minority group. The 2006 extension would continue to prohibit the use of discriminatory tests or devices to deny the right to vote and would expand the use of federal observers at polling sites. The senator believes that in an era rife with rumor of fraud, the federal government should bolster its protection of the 15th amendment by not allowing the provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to lapse.

Comments and Quotes on Casino/Indian Gambling

“Voinovich zeroed in on gambling for what it really is, a zero-sum game. For all the talk of new jobs for blackjack dealers, cocktail waitresses and others, the local economy only has so many entertainment dollars. Voinovich correctly pointed out that existing restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues, even retail businesses, would suffer as dollars are diverted.”

Editorial, *Unsafe Bet: The Casino Crowd Tries Again to Sell Ohioans on a Lousy Investment*, Akron Beacon Journal, March 24, 2005

“Gambling is a parasitic industry that spreads like cancer... Congress should heed Voinovich and Vitter and impose stricter controls on Indian casinos.”

Editorial, *Up the Ante: More Controls Needed to Slow the Spread of Indian Casinos*, Columbus Dispatch, July 31, 2005

Comments and Quotes on the Highway Bill

“Senator George Voinovich says the big transformation Congress just passed is the best ever for the state of Ohio. Certainly it contains loads of cash for important projects around the state. But four earmarks bode especially well for the future of Cleveland’s waterfronts – if local officials are smart enough to leverage those federal dollars by cooperating and by inviting lots of creative people to the table.”

News Article, *Piecemeal won’t cut it: City and port officials must join forces on the waterfront to make projects for Docks 28 and 32 into one grand plan*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, August 9, 2005

Fiscal Responsibility

The retirement of the Baby Boom generation will put unprecedented strains on the federal government. According to the reports from Medicare and Social Security trustees, the trust funds for these programs will be exhausted even earlier than previously thought. If we leave reform of entitlement programs for future Congresses to solve, as well as a mountain of debt to pay off, it will have devastating consequences on the economy and on our children and grandchildren.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Floor Speech, May 3, 2006

Reducing the Deficit

As a former mayor and governor, Senator Voinovich understands the importance of making difficult decisions when necessary, particularly when it comes to budget concerns. The senator recognizes that the nation cannot continue to spend uncontrollably and reduce revenue under the assumption that our children and grandchildren will pay for it tomorrow.

The Fiscal Year 2006 budget deficit was \$248 billion – the seventh largest deficit in our nation’s history, with the three largest deficits occurring in 2003, 2004 and 2005. In addition, the national debt has increased from \$5.6 trillion when Senator Voinovich came to the Senate in 1999 to \$8.6 trillion in 2006 – an increase of over 50 percent. But these numbers pale in comparison with the budget problems looming as the Baby Boomers retire. In today’s dollars, we face a long-term fiscal imbalance of \$61 trillion; that’s \$203,000 for every citizen or \$485,000 for every worker.

Currently, the national debt is 65 percent of the nation’s GDP, and the portion of the national debt held by the public is 37 percent of GDP. (The remaining portion of the national debt is held in trust funds such as Social Security.) The percentage of the publicly-held debt that is owned by foreign creditors has grown to 55 percent from 35 percent over the past five years, with most of the foreign-held debt being owned by foreign central banks. Alan Greenspan worries that if these central banks grow nervous about U.S. fiscal health and sell off their holdings of U.S. Treasuries, the United States could see an astronomical increase in interest rates.

In an effort to curb spending, Congress enacted the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which achieves budget savings of \$39.1 billion over a five-year period. This is the first time since 1997 that Congress has used the reconciliation process to reduce mandatory spending. Although difficult decisions on funding cuts were made, the budget savings package will: 1) begin a long-term effort at slowing the growth of entitlement spending, which now consumes about 55 percent of the total budget, and which will rise to 65 percent in 10 years if no action is taken, and 2) stimulate reform of entitlement programs, many of which are outdated, inefficient and costly.

A Vision for the Future: Truth in Budgeting

All taxpayers have the right to expect that the money they pay into the Social Security trust fund will be protected and used only to pay for legitimate Social Security benefits. It is time for the federal government to stop borrowing from Social Security. Senator Voinovich’s Truth in Budgeting Act of 2005, which he co-sponsored with Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND), will guarantee that any trust fund revenues collected for a special purpose, including Social Security funds, will be securely locked away and not lent out for other purposes, ensuring that the money will be there for people when they need it.

This includes borrowing from trust funds to balance the federal budget. Congress has not only raided the Social Security trust fund to the tune of \$1.9 trillion, they have also borrowed over \$695 billion from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, \$196 billion from the Military Retirement Fund and smaller amounts from almost 130 other federal trust funds. In all, they have borrowed just over \$3.5 trillion worth of funds intended for other purposes. When the president, Congress and the public are forced to recognize the true cost of federal borrowing, they will be forced to exercise more fiscal restraint.

Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits

Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of the Government Pension Offset Reform Act, which fixes a penalty on government retirees who are eligible for a Social Security surviving spouse benefit. Under current law, a Social Security spousal benefit is reduced or completely eliminated if the surviving spouse receives a pension based on a local, state or federal government job that was not covered by Social Security.

Nearly 390,400 Americans are affected by the current offset rules, including more than 53,818 Ohioans. The national number grows by nearly 20,000 retirees each year. Almost 60 percent of the survivors affected by this law are women. Women are more likely to receive Social Security spousal benefits and to have worked in low-paying or short-term government positions while they were raising families. This modification will allow these women who have contributed years of government and family service to rely on a larger amount of retirement income.

Pushing for Accountability in Federal Spending

The senator has long believed that public officials should be judged on whether they can work harder and smarter and do more with less. Americans have the right to know how their government spends their money. That is why Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. The bill establishes a search engine and database to track approximately \$1 trillion in federal grants, contracts, earmarks and loans. The bipartisan legislation was signed into law by President Bush on September 26, 2006.

Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Programs: The SAFE Commission

As the Senate's top "deficit hawk," Senator Voinovich introduced legislation aimed at a comprehensive reform of our nation's tax and entitlement systems. The Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act establishes a national commission to examine these systems and present long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course and ensure the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations. The Commission will bring together the best minds associated with budget and economic policies to examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and recommend reforms. The Commission may consider all policy options, including:

- Limiting the growth of entitlement spending to ensure that the programs are fiscally sustainable;
- Strengthening the safety net functions of entitlement programs to provide assistance to the neediest;
- Making the tax code more efficient and more conducive to economic growth; and
- Providing incentives to increase private savings.

The Commission will present a report to Congress detailing the fiscal problems facing future generations as well as a framework for long-term solutions. Within 60 days of the presentation of its report to Congress, the Commission will transmit to Congress a legislative proposal designed to:

- Address the imbalance between long-term federal spending commitments and projected revenues;
- Increase net national savings to spur domestic investment and economic growth; and
- Improve the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

The administration and Congress will each have 60 days to review the proposal and develop alternative proposals if they so desire. Congress will be required to vote on the various proposals within a specified time period. Each chamber of Congress would bring the proposal with the greatest number of votes when it meets with the other chamber to develop a final, bicameral proposal.

Fundamental Tax Reform

True fiscal conservatives should be focused on making the tax code simple, fair and honest rather than tinkering with piecemeal reforms. Fundamental tax reform could, by some estimates, save taxpayers over \$265 billion in costs associated with preparing their taxes. That would be a real tax reduction and it would not cost the Treasury one dime. It would be a tax cut that would guarantee people are paying their fair share and would bring more money into the Federal Treasury.

In 2006, Senator Voinovich opposed repealing the estate tax and paying for it by borrowing the money from future generations. Full repeal of the estate tax would cost the U.S. Treasury \$60 billion to \$70 billion annually, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. Estate tax relief is a worthy policy goal, but it should be paid for the honest way – with corresponding revenue increases or budget savings – and not by increasing the national debt. About 1 percent of decedents incurred the estate tax last year, while 100 percent of Americans bear the burden of the national debt. Senator Voinovich supports including estate tax relief as part of a fundamental reform of the tax code.

When the president traveled to Ohio in 2005, he recognized Senator Voinovich's efforts to push for a tax reform panel. On November 1, 2005, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform released two tax reform proposals. The senator is looking forward to working with the administration on these findings and recommendations and hopes the president will mention tax reform in the 2007 State of the Union.

Comments and Quotes on Fiscal Responsibility

"Flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, flap. That's George V. Voinovich, Republican of Ohio, gaining altitude in what for him has become an occasional appearance as a member of that rare and unprotected species in the United States Senate, the deficit hawk.... Self-styled 'deficit hawks' such as George Voinovich may be the last best hope to stop the administration's fateful rush toward fiscal suicide."

Editorial, *The "Hawk" Flies Again*, Toledo Blade, February 17, 2005

"Voinovich, famously frugal in his personal life, genuinely believes that governments should live within their means. As mayor he helped bring a bankrupt Cleveland back to fiscal health, and as governor he guided Ohio safely through a nasty recession. A political pragmatist, he relied in both instances on spending cuts as well as tax hikes to bring budgets into balance while providing necessary services to his constituents."

Editorial, *Taming the Tiger*, Cincinnati Post, February 11, 2005

"These days a Republican such as Ohio Sen. George Voinovich is branded as a 'maverick' for standing up and saying out loud that with deficits this high we shouldn't make President Bush's tax cuts permanent and that Congress should find ways to cut spending to make up for what it is spending on the Gulf Coast."

Editorial, *An immodest proposal*, Cincinnati Post, September 22, 2005

"Voinovich knows how to reduce spending. He had practical experience as governor. His exasperation represents an uncommon expression of honesty, the senator making plain that if the country insists on its current spending practices (out of pleasure or necessity), it must confront the obligation to raise enough revenue.... The ethic that Voinovich has in mind is true fiscal conservatism, not wishful thinking or tough words about spending reductions tomorrow, or the next day."

Editorial, *George Voinovich gets real: the Senator has another fit of fiscal honesty*, Akron Beacon Journal, September 25, 2005

“Five brave Senate Republicans – George Voinovich, John McCain, Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins and Lincoln Chafee – bucked their party on Wednesday to vote for budget rules that would have required any new tax cuts be paid for with savings elsewhere in the budget.”

Editorial, ***Destined for Deficits***, Washington Post, March 18, 2005

“Putting Social Security’s excess cash in a lockbox makes perfect sense to Americans who are counting on this program to help pay for their retirement. Sen. George V. Voinovich proposed legislation to block the federal government from raiding the annual surplus, a practice he says conceals the mammoth size of the budget deficit.”

Editorial, ***Fix Social Security: Congress Should Face Up to its Responsibility to Shore Up Program***, Columbus Dispatch, September 29, 2005

“Voinovich rightly scolded the president and others for seeking to place an ‘immoral’ burden on future generations, leaving today’s children and grandchildren to cope with a legacy of fiscal irresponsibility. He stressed: ‘The simple, undeniable fact is that we can’t have it all.’”

Editorial, ***Scolding by Voinovich***, Akron Beacon Journal, February 3, 2006

“Voinovich delivered another of those blunt, passionate speeches that have earned him the label of ‘maverick.’ But he said something legislators, and the people who send them to Washington, ought to hear. He said we can’t go on forever pretending that deficits don’t matter. That we can’t keep taking money earmarked for Social Security to fund daily operations of the government without saddling our grandchildren with crushing debt.”

Editorial, ***Charging it to the Children***, Cincinnati Post, February 5, 2006

“Ohio Republican Sen. George V. Voinovich indicated after Bush’s Jan. 31 State of the Union speech that he opposes continuing the tax cuts. Will other Republicans in Ohio’s congressional delegation join him in his stand for common sense? The *Cleveland*, who prides himself on his reputation as a deficit hawk, says it’s ‘immoral to bequeath trillions of dollars in debt to our children and grandchildren,’ adding, ‘The simple, undeniable fact is that we can’t have it all.’”

Editorial, ***End the hypocrisy***, Columbus Dispatch, February 12, 2006

“Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) and Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio) have put forward a proposal that ...would create a bipartisan commission with a broad mandate to examine long-term fiscal challenges. All policy options would be on the table. The commission would solicit input from the public and develop legislation that Congress and the president would be required to act on.... The Wolf-Voinovich proposal has been greeted with silence or outright hostility. It deserves better. This is a serious proposal by two leaders who regard the debt burden and draconian policy options we are leaving to future generations as a moral stain on our nation’s character.... Time is running out to enact reforms. Wolf and Voinovich have come up with a credible way to get the process started. Any takers?”

Op-Ed by Bob Kerrey and Warren Rudman, ***Securing Future Fiscal Health***, Washington Post, August 28, 2006

“Voinovich, as mayor of Cleveland and as governor of Ohio, faced deficits and dealt with them by trimming spending and raising revenues. It was from that experience that he cautioned colleagues who think there is an easier way around the problem.... Voinovich said that while the government is not coming close to paying its current bills, it is also not meeting its obligations to the future. Investment in transportation and infrastructure and in training the next generation of workers is far below the levels needed to maintain America’s competitive position in the world economy. The answer from Congress was to pass a two-year extension of the Bush tax cuts for capital gains and dividends – a \$70 billion package that mainly benefits those with annual incomes over \$200,000. Voinovich was one of the few Republicans who joined most Democrats in opposing the budget-buster. His candor is, unfortunately, not contagious.”

Column by David S. Broder, *A Lonely Warning On Debt*, Washington Post, May 14, 2006

“Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, a Republican, voted against it, on the sensible grounds that the tax cuts aren’t needed, aren’t affordable and serve to undercut efforts at comprehensive tax reform.”

Editorial, *Invest your \$453 wisely*, Cincinnati Post, May 15, 2006

“The senators who deserve the most credit for saving the day, however, were George Voinovich of Ohio and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, Republicans who broke with their party to help block consideration of the repeal. Mr. Voinovich said, rightly, that the idea of eliminating the tax under current conditions was ‘incredibly irresponsible and intellectually dishonest.’”

Editorial, *What Passes for Good News*, New York Times, June 9, 2006

“Who’s in power doesn’t matter much. Reagan launched an optional defense buildup, while making no attack on the biggest domestic programs. George W. Bush decided the American people wanted a Medicare drug benefit. That’s Voinovich’s point. He feels he can’t support major tax cuts at a time when the deficit is huge and the spending projections are huge. A favorite line of the tax-cutters is that the deficit doesn’t result from too little money coming in, but from too much going out. They might as well complain about the weather.”

Commentary, *Revenue hikes don’t end tax debate*, Dayton Daily News, June 14, 2006

National Security

The war on terror is not over. America is safer, but not yet safe. As the enemy adjusts to our increased security, we must also adjust. In order to succeed, we need support from our friends and allies. Together we can deny the terrorists the sustenance they need to survive. We can stop certain nation-states from providing safe haven, financial support, and protection to our enemy. We will not let the victims of September 11th die in vain. We will not let the terrorists rob us of our freedom or our way of life.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Statement, September 11, 2006

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Voinovich joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) in January 2003. The senator's interest in foreign relations stemmed in large part from his own studies of international relations and his history as a supporter of Ohio's diverse ethnic communities. As mayor of Cleveland and governor of Ohio, Voinovich gained a keen understanding of the priorities of America's ethnic communities as well as the importance of our nation's foreign trade and national security policies to the average citizen or businessman in Ohio.

The senator sits on four subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on European Affairs, the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy/Export/Trade, the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, and the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. In addition to using his status on the Committee to conduct oversight of U.S. foreign policy in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and North Korea, Senator Voinovich plays a leadership role on the following issues: promoting lasting peace and stability in Southeast Europe; strengthening and enlarging the NATO Alliance; reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil; advancing U.N. reform; strengthening U.S. public diplomacy; and combating global anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance. His membership on the Committee has given him a strong platform to champion these important issues.

War on Terror

Senator Voinovich is committed to advancing the security of the United States and ensuring that our children and grandchildren will live in a world of peace and an America free from terror. He believes that the tragic events of 9/11 underscored that we are in a global fight with terrorists who want to destroy the United States and any who share our values. The senator believes the United States must not yield to these individuals, whose objective is to spread fear, resentment, despair and violence among their own people, fellow countrymen and abroad. He believes we must continue to work internationally to isolate terrorists, freeze their financial networks, close their training centers and schools, and deny them safe-haven. He is also a proponent of inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as a tool in the war on terror. He has read numerous books on Islam and believes that if we are to succeed in the War on Terror, we must understand Islam and distinguish those who have been radicalized from the overwhelming majority of Muslims who believe in democracy, rule of law, human rights, and have reconciled their faith with modernity.

Progress in Iraq

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Voinovich is actively involved in U.S. policy on Iraq and has attended a number of hearings and secure briefings from the Pentagon, National Security Council and State Department. Senator Voinovich believes the struggle in Iraq is both a low-grade civil war with the potential to become great and a crucial front in the war against al-Qaeda. Terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda have fueled the retaliation of Shia militias, which has fueled sectarian violence and Sunni Arab support for the insurgency. Senator Voinovich believes we can prevent a full-

scale civil war if we work together with Iraqi leaders and all of the key players in the international community. A strong commitment will be necessary to prevent Iraq from spiraling into chaos and destabilizing the entire Middle East. The senator believes we must establish a bipartisan consensus on the best way forward in Iraq and welcomed the Baker-Hamilton Commission's Report as a good step in this direction. He believes that overall it is a good report and the recommendations should be taken very seriously.

In particular, Senator Voinovich supports the report's recommendation that the United States must work with the entire region to stabilize Iraq. To sustain progress, he supports clear benchmarks in Iraq and a sensible timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. He believes the troop withdrawals can serve as leverage in convincing the Iraqi government to dismantle Shia militias and reach across sectarian lines to end the violence. He has been concerned about Muqtada al-Sadr for over three years and has argued in closed sessions that there will never be a unity government as long as al-Sadr continues to influence Iraqi leaders. The senator believes that al-Sadr wants to become the Ayatollah of Iraq and establish a theocracy like that which exists in Iran.

Since the initiation of combat in Iraq, the senator has urged both President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to be very clear with the American people about the situation in Iraq and U.S. objectives in the region. In a 2006 Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Iraq, the senator told Secretary Rice, "I think it's really important that you continue to level with the American people about how important it is that we're successful in Iraq and that if we're not successful in Iraq, that it will spill over to the entire area in the Middle East." The senator believes transparency and accurate information is critical to sustaining the commitment of our population to a difficult war.

In 2006, Senator Voinovich voted to support continued funding for U.S. operations and reconstruction in Iraq as part of the National Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007. While Senator Voinovich fully supported legislation to fund operations and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, he repeatedly called on the administration to seek more support and cooperation from other nations and international organizations. The senator will continue to follow the situation in Iraq closely and will support a bipartisan plan for moving forward in Iraq.

Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance

Senator Voinovich is dedicated to combating the rise of anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance at home and abroad. He has called on the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to provide more international funding to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance throughout the world. He has called on the Organization to fund their own personnel and resources at an adequate level and to expand legislation, education and training in these areas. In pursuing his goals, the senator is in regular contact with the State Department's Office to Combat Global Anti-Semitism, which was created as a result of his 2004 legislation, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. He is an active participant in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. His leadership on this issue has been recognized by the American Jewish Committee and many others in the Jewish community.

Reform at the United Nations

Senator Voinovich believes the United Nations (U.N.) is a critical organization for promoting a dialogue among all nations, reducing misperceptions and misunderstandings between nations, and fostering global cooperation. For over 60 years, the U.N. has been charged with this mission and, in recent years, has been charged with an even greater role in responding to and resolving international conflicts and humanitarian crises. For this reason, the senator believes it is extremely important that U.N. member nations call for and support the reform and modernization of the organization to ensure its effectiveness, accountability, transparency and credibility.

In 2006, the senator consulted regularly with Ambassador John Bolton on U.N. reform. Additionally, he met with several ambassadors and officials from the United Nations when he visited the General Assembly on a trip led by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The senator attended all of the hearings on U.N. reform that were held by the Foreign Relations Committee in 2006. In each of his meetings, he stressed the importance of cooperating with other nations to promote reform objectives. During the November session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Senator Voinovich spoke to NATO members about the importance of U.N. reform for NATO's own objectives and called on the parliamentarians to become more active on reform within their own governments and to introduce resolutions that will demand a greater focus on U.N. reform in 2007.

Public Diplomacy

The Global War on Terror raises the stakes in public diplomacy. As stated in the 9/11 Commission Report summary, "Public diplomacy tools are as important in the war on terrorism as military tools." In a post-9/11 era, the relationships the United States maintains with foreign countries are vital to success in eradicating terrorism. Negative opinions about the United States have increased internationally, in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, as well as amongst traditional allies and emerging friends. For example, America's image has declined significantly in India (from 71 percent to 56 percent) and Indonesia (from 38 percent to 30 percent). In Turkey only 12 percent expressed a favorable opinion of the United States, down from 23 percent, and 63 percent in Japan approved of the United States, down from 72 percent in the last poll of Japanese sentiment conducted in 2002. For this reason, Senator Voinovich believes we must focus more attention to the issue of public diplomacy and the war of ideas.

The senator was pleased that the administration has recognized the importance of this issue by appointing Karen Hughes to be the Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy. However, the senator believes it will require changes on the strategic and tactical levels to improve U.S. public diplomacy and the U.S. image abroad. In 2006, the senator wrote to Karen Hughes to ask her how she is evaluating U.S. public diplomacy programs and when she will submit an overarching strategy for coordinating across government agencies to face the challenge of improving public diplomacy and winning hearts and minds abroad. Hughes provided the senator with several criteria that she is implementing now to evaluate progress on public diplomacy and reported that an overarching strategy on public diplomacy would be forthcoming.

Strengthening the Alliance: Helping Extend NATO Membership

One of the highlights of Senator Voinovich's career was his presence at the historic Prague conference in 2002 in which seven Eastern European nations were invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 2006, Senator Voinovich continued his active involvement in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and his work to promote NATO enlargement. He attended two NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in which NATO's future and plans for enlargement were discussed and recommendations were made to NATO's ministers. The senator continued support of NATO expansion, including support for future expansion to the countries of Southeast Europe, including Partnership for Peace (PfP) status for Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Senator Voinovich wrote a letter to the president asking him to pressure NATO to provide a concrete path of membership for Croatia and other worthy candidates during the NATO Summit in Riga, Latvia, in late November. He wrote to Secretary Rice to encourage her to bring Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina into the PfP program to prepare the countries for NATO membership. The senator was very pleased when the United States and other NATO countries agreed to grant PfP status to all three countries at the NATO Summit.

In November, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored S. 4014, the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2006, which endorsed further enlargement of NATO and the admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia and Macedonia to NATO. The bill passed in the Senate by Unanimous Consent on November 16, 2006. Also

in November, Senator Voinovich was elected by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Transatlantic Cooperation. Senator Voinovich will use his position to support a strong relationship between the United States and its NATO allies.

Future Status of Kosovo

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and member of the Subcommittee on European Affairs, Senator Voinovich focuses special attention on Kosovo and Kosovo's future status. In 2006, Senator Voinovich remained actively involved in the issue, participating in hearings and meeting regularly with key U.S. officials, including Secretary Rice, Undersecretary of Political Affairs Nick Burns, and Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Dan Fried. He also spoke to Secretary Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the issue of Kosovo, encouraging them both to continue to focus on the outcome in Kosovo despite the many other pressing foreign policy issues.

Senator Voinovich has promoted a fair solution to the conflict that would take into account democratic forces in Serbia and ensure the protection of Kosovo's minorities. He has called for an increased presence by NATO forces in Kosovo (KFOR) on the ground to prevent violence, detailed planning for the final solution so that mistakes are avoided, and a heightened attention to public awareness about the importance of reducing discrimination and ethnic violence and making good on commitments agreed to in the final plan. He has discouraged a hasty decision that would not address important security and humanitarian issues in Kosovo.

Funding Defense Priorities

Senator Voinovich helped secure \$9.6 million for military construction projects in Ohio in the Fiscal Year 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. Overall the bill provided \$94.32 billion for U.S. Department of Defense military construction projects and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This amount included the following projects for Ohio that were requested by Senator Voinovich in a letter to the conferees:

Montgomery County

- **Wright Patterson Air Force Base: \$900,000** to fund the planning and design of an Information Technology Complex, Phase 2.

Franklin County

- **Rickenbacker International Airport: \$7.2 million** for a Security Forces Complex and Communications Building.

Portage County

- **Ravenna Training and Logistics Site: \$1.5 million** for Bachelor Officers Quarters and Barracks facility.

Other Key Provisions:

- **Family Housing: \$4.06 billion** for family housing construction, operations and maintenance, and housing improvement.
- **Compensation and Pensions: \$38.01 billion** for compensation and pensions.
- **Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund Program Account: \$196.7 million.**
- **Medical Services: \$28.69 billion** for the medical services of eligible veterans and beneficiaries in VA medical centers, outpatient clinic facilities, contract hospitals, state homes and outpatient programs.
- **Medical Facilities: Nearly \$3.57 billion** for medical facilities and the VA health care system's capital infrastructure.

Funding Ohio Defense Projects

The senator also played a role in securing funding for Ohio projects in the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Appropriations Conference Report, which passed the Senate on September 29, 2006.

Allen County

- **General Dynamics: \$796 million** was included in the bill for Stryker – an eight-wheeled combat vehicle that is lighter, smaller and more readily deployable than heavy brigade combat vehicles. These funds will benefit General Dynamics and the Joint System Manufacturing Center (tank plant) in Lima.
- **General Dynamics: \$700 million** was provided in bridge funds for the procurement of Abrams SEP M1A2 tanks to address combat losses and wear and tear. The tanks will also be equipped with more capable computer systems and night vision capabilities. These funds will benefit General Dynamics and the Joint System Manufacturing Center (tank plant) in Lima.
- **General Dynamics: \$574.7 million** was provided in bridge funds to the Abrams Integrated Management Program to address combat losses, wear and tear, and needs of the warfighter. The funds will increase the combat readiness of U.S. Armed Forces and reduce Operation & Support costs by recapitalizing older or stressed M1A1 Abrams tanks to a zero-mileage, “like-new” condition. The funds will help to keep jobs at Lima, and the tank upgrades will contribute to the safety of our troops abroad.
- **Joint Systems Manufacturing Center: \$3 million** was provided to JSMC in Lima for the development of an advanced flexible, high-speed machining cell for processing of advanced materials for near-term and future military vehicle manufacturing. This project will result in a one-of-a-kind advanced machining cell in the United States for military applications.

Cuyahoga and Hamilton County

- **The Sherwin Williams Company: \$2 million** was provided to Sherwin Williams to develop a new technology that provides a superior and cost-effective method of blast resistance to structures. These blast-resistant panels would be used in new construction or the retro-fitting of buildings to protect against explosions from terrorist attacks or combat action.
- **Eaton Corp: \$1 million** was provided for Mission Critical Power System Reliability Surveys. This program will perform risk assessments of redundant power and related systems to identify weaknesses that could result in breach of operations, security and other threats.

Franklin County

- **LSP Technologies: \$2.2 million** was provided for LSP to enable the Army to perform extended helicopter missions with more safety and reliability in extreme environments and climate conditions.
- **Battelle Memorial Institute: \$1 million** was provided to Battelle for a project to develop a tagging, tracking and locating system for what are called “high value targets” by the Department of Defense.
- **Sensor Technology Systems, Inc: \$1 million** for Low Profile Night Vision Goggles (LP/NVG). The LP/NVG is a ruggedized, light weight, image intensifier system that incorporates state-of-the-art tube technology.

Greene County

- **Wright State University: \$2 million** was provided to Wright State for a project to establish a vigilance research facility focused on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism in the Global War on Terror. The research facility will focus on developing technology for detecting, tracking and recognizing enemy combatants and/or terrorists.

Lake County

- **STERIS Corporation: \$2.7 million** was provided to STERIS for its project: Battlefield Production of Improved Vaporous Hydrogen Peroxide for Tactical Environments and Field Decontamination.

Montgomery County

- **Wright Brothers Institute (WBI): \$5 million** was provided to WBI to build on collaborative efforts among WBI, the Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL), Defense Suppliers, the Alien Technology Corporation and others to provide an effective way to collaborate with government end users, prime contractors and suppliers to develop Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) solutions.
- **Wright Brothers Institute: \$1.7 million** was provided to WBI to employ sophisticated Modeling, Simulation and Analysis (MS&A) techniques to conduct highly complex, capabilities-centered analyses. Such work will support national agencies in the areas of bio-terrorism, homeland defense, energy security and broad national capabilities development.
- **University of Dayton Research Institute/Wright Brothers Institute: \$2.2 million** was provided to UDRI and WBI to develop air vehicle technologies to operate high-energy lasers on tactical air vehicle platforms.
- **University of Dayton Research Institute: \$2.2 million** was provided to UDRI to make the Army Vision for Future Combat Systems (FCS) significantly lighter, more deployable and more sustainable by using polymer nano-composites.

Stark County

- **The Timken Company: \$1.7 million** was provided to Timken Company for the development of an improved hybrid bearing that is tough, corrosion-resistant and can tolerate the high speeds and temperatures of the expanding mission requirements.

Summit County

- **Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company: \$1 million** was provided to Goodyear for research and development of advanced reinforced materials for carrier combat aircraft tires, and other naval aircraft tires for future aircraft platforms, the Joint Strike Fighter and other existing aircraft. Goodyear is the only U.S.-owned tire company manufacturing for the U.S. military.
- **Lockheed Martin Defense and Surveillance Systems – Millennium Gun System: \$2 million** was provided to Lockheed Martin for a new gun system designed to defeat threats in the air, on the surface, and during littoral and riverine operations.
- **Carrier Replacement Program, Nuclear Propulsion Equipment: \$7.75 million** for the Carrier Replacement Program in the Naval Shipbuilding budget. The amendment would not effect a net change in the FY2007-FY2008 funds for this project but would move the funds forward one year to address the long lead time required for the work on the nuclear reactor. The money would support material and labor costs. By moving some of the FY2008 funds to FY2007, the BWXT facility in Ohio can retain important jobs for highly-skilled workers and save money in the long term.

Comments and Quotes on John Bolton Nomination

“Voinovich’s independence should be celebrated and cheap attacks on him are certainly unwarranted when he is simply doing what the public expects. Whether or not John Bolton is the best person as U.N. ambassador is still a debate. But George Voinovich is trying to make sure the right decision is made and that type of independence is why Ohioans sent him back to Washington.”

Editorial, Portsmouth Daily Times, April 23, 2005

“The former Ohio governor should be commended for occasionally differing with President Bush and GOP leaders in Congress. Independent thinking should be – but is not – a prized commodity in highly partisan Washington.... Lawmakers should follow their consciences rather than the party line.”
Editorial, ***Furor Over U.N. Nominee***, Columbus Dispatch, April 28, 2005

“Worth attention still is the other aspect of the Senate role in confirming presidential nominees: the ‘advice’ part. Voinovich fulfilled the duty bravely, marvelously.”
Editorial, ***Full Voinovich in Full View***, Akron Beacon Journal, May 15, 2005

“Voinovich isn’t the type to be reckless about a nomination. He understands keenly the importance of the president forging his own team. He deserves great credit for standing with the many Republicans (an extraordinary number, really, albeit not in the Senate) who have come forward to speak candidly and critically about the nomination.”
Editorial, ***Boltin’ from Bolton***, Akron Beacon Journal, June 22, 2005

“Voinovich did the honorable thing by standing up for principle in the face of intense partisan pressure.”
Editorial, ***No Break for John***, Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 22, 2005

“Voinovich isn’t somebody who goes looking for fights, particularly with a president. But when he makes up his mind, he’s not afraid to say what he thinks. He likes being in the corridors of power, but he’s not so caught up in the pomp that he won’t ask, ‘What in the world are you doing, Mr. President?’”
Editorial, ***DeWine, Voinovich Just Said No: Bush Has to Note Their ‘Advice’***, Dayton Daily News, May 29, 2005

“It is refreshing to see Senator Voinovich, a gentleman of the old school, insist on hearing the full story about Mr. Bolton, even if it means going against his fellow Republicans. More senators should have such scruples.”
Editorial, ***A Senator With Scruples***, Toledo Blade, April 26, 2005

“The Dispatch concurs with Voinovich that this would be a bad time for the United States to switch ambassadors. The senator, in an opinion piece for The Washington Post, said he can’t imagine a ‘worse message’ to the world than drawnout confirmation hearings. He said that a confirmation battle would encourage America’s opponents to make Bolton the issue, undermining the U.S. agenda.”
Editorial, ***Keep Bolton at U.N.***, Columbus Dispatch, July 27, 2006

“Mr. Voinovich is on the mark this time. With the Middle East aflame, North Korea launching missiles, Iran pursuing nukes, and the continuing challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan, we need to speak with one strong voice at the U.N.”
Editorial, ***Set things right by confirming Bolton***, Baltimore Sun, July 31, 2006

“We’re not sure which we admire more, Ambassador Bolton’s straight talk or Senator Voinovich’s elemental fairness.”
Editorial, ***Vote of confidence, John Bolton makes a friend of a critic***, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, July 22, 2006

“Voinovich argues that if he and his Senate colleagues don’t confirm Bolton at a time when he’s spearheading so many U.S. priorities, that decision will ‘jeopardize our influence in the United Nations and encourage those who oppose the United States to make Bolton the issue.’ Voinovich is right. Bolton went to the United Nations having to prove himself. He’s done that.”

Editorial, *Speaking of John Bolton...*, Chicago Tribune, July 25, 2006

Comments and Quotes on Southeast Europe

“The Administration’s focus on the Middle East during a time of major war is understandable. Yet, it must resist the urge to wash its hands of a region that still has plenty of potential for widespread bloodshed left in it. Voinovich is right to highlight the dangers of a precipitous U.S. pullout.”

News Article, *Re-engaging in Kosovo*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, February 22, 2005

“The Bush administration, opening an initiative to stabilize the troubled Balkan states, is seeking to speed up talks to grant greater independence for Kosovo in return for strides by the Kosovo government to protect the rights of Serbs and other minorities, State Department officials have announced. A senior State Department official gave credit to Mr. Holbrooke for pressing the need for greater involvement in the Balkans and also to Senator George V. Voinovich, an Ohio Republican who is of Serbian and Slovenian descent.”

News Article, *U.S. Is Seeking to Speed Up Talks on Kosovo’s Status*, New York Times, May 21, 2005

“The Senate’s leading Balkans expert said Wednesday he’s afraid Kosovo, the breakaway Serbian territory that drew NATO into war in the late 1990s, is moving too quickly toward independence and still needs U.S. troops to prevent a return to violence. ‘We need to continue our military commitment there and talk about having a flexible force for the next couple of years and see how it plays out,’ said Sen. George Voinovich, an Ohio Republican of Serbian and Slovenian descent.”

Article, *Senator warns of fragile independence talks in Kosovo*, The Associated Press, March 30, 2006

American Competitiveness

Today, America is experiencing some of the fiercest competition I've seen in my lifetime. The world is completely connected – politically, economically, and culturally. With just a stroke of a computer key, we can touch any corner of the globe. American businesses face more challenges than ever before. And, it's Government's role to provide the infrastructure for American business.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Speech, September 7, 2006

Health Care

Health Partnership Act

In an attempt to break through the health care gridlock in Washington, Senator Voinovich introduced the Health Partnership Act (S. 2772) with his colleague Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH), Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Mark Dayton (D-MN) are also co-sponsors of the bill. The Health Partnership Act would allow states and local government entities to “experiment” with proposals currently bottled up in Congress and reward them when they achieve reductions in their number of uninsured. The legislation recognizes that successful policy is more likely to emerge from options developed in individual states than from attempts to find a one-size-fits-all solution for the entire nation. Passing this legislation would provide a platform from which to have a thoughtful conversation about health care reform in Washington.

Specifically, the Health Partnership Act would create a bipartisan State Health Innovation Commission housed at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and comprised of health policy experts appointed by members of Congress, the National Governor's Association (NGA), the National Leagues of Cities and other state and local organizations. With Congressional oversight, the Commission would be responsible for approving a “toolbox” of policy options, including tax credit approaches, expansion of Medicaid or SCHIP, creation of pooling arrangements like the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), single-payer systems and health savings accounts, or a combination of these or other options from which the state can choose to design their reform plans. It would authorize HHS to provide grants to participating states to offset the cost of their initiatives and link them to the measurable performance in reaching their initiative's goals.

In August 2006, Senator Voinovich held a health care roundtable in Cincinnati to discuss the Health Partnership Act. The roundtable brought together clinicians, administrators from the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Catholic Healthcare Partners, United Way, small business representatives, state of Ohio representatives and uninsured to speak with a number of local health care providers, social service agencies, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services representatives about the legislation. Many participants offered their support and expressed interest in working with the senator on health reform in the 110th Congress.

Federal Employees Personal Health Records Act

Senator Voinovich believes that the widespread adoption of health information technology (IT) has the capacity to transform the health care profession. In fact, the Institute of Medicine, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and other expert panels have identified information technology as one of the most powerful tools in reducing medical errors and improving the quality of care.

The Institute of Medicine estimates that there are nearly 98,000 deaths each year resulting from medical errors. Many of these deaths can be directly attributed to the inherent imperfections of our current paper-based health care system. Not only could the switch from paper records to electronic records save lives and improve the quality of health care, but it also has the potential to reduce the cost of the delivery of health care. According to Rand Corporation, the health care delivery system in the United States could save approximately \$160 billion annually with the widespread use of IT.

In order to promote the use of electronic medical records, Senator Voinovich joined his colleague Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) to introduce the Federal Employees Electronic Personal Health Records Act, S. 3846. This bill would provide for the establishment and maintenance of electronic personal health records (EHRs) for individuals and family members enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefits Plans (FEHBPs). The voluntary EHRs that would be established through the bill would provide clinicians with real-time access to their patient's health history. Each EHR would contain claims data, contact information for providers of health care services, and other useful information for diagnosis and treatment. The records would be available cost-free to FEHBP participants and would maintain strict adherence to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

S. 3846 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, of which Senator Voinovich is a member and chair of the Subcommittee with direct oversight over this issue. The legislation would not only benefit the eight million individuals who receive their health care through the FEHBP, but also our nation's overall health care system by setting an example of effective health information technology implementation.

Strengthening and Improving Medicare and Guaranteeing a Prescription Drug Benefit

In 2003, with the senator's support, Congress passed legislation that finally provides Medicare beneficiaries with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. This is especially important to the more than 400,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Ohio who had no public or private prescription drug coverage. The new program ensures that all Medicare beneficiaries will receive substantial help paying for prescription drugs, with low-income seniors receiving additional assistance. For those beneficiaries who already have coverage through another source, such as a former employer, and who want to keep that coverage, the legislation supports that choice as well.

In 2006, for the first time, seniors across the United States were given access to prescription drug coverage through the Medicare program. Nationwide 38 million – approximately 90 percent – of Medicare's 43 million beneficiaries have taken advantage of this opportunity, and on average have saved 60 percent off of their drug costs compared to Medicare beneficiaries without prescription drug coverage. This means the typical senior who previously lacked drug coverage will see an average annual savings of \$1,100. Low-income seniors can expect to save even more – \$3,700 annually on average.

This is great news for the 1.4 million Ohio seniors (78 percent of Ohio seniors) who now have prescription drug coverage as a result of the new Medicare benefit. Yet, since that number is not 100 percent, Senator Voinovich is working to continue to ensure that all seniors have the information they need to make a decision about which plan, if any, is right for them. Since January 1, 2006, a new optional drug benefit is available under Medicare. The plan has an average monthly premium of \$32, and after a \$250 deductible, the benefit covers 75 percent of all prescription drug costs up to \$2,250. Should seniors consume over \$3,600 in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs, the federal government picks up 95 percent of drug costs. The new plan also modernizes the Medicare program to provide seniors access to preventive lifesaving benefits. The initial enrollment period for the benefit began on November 15, 2005, and extended through May 15, 2006. Each year an open enrollment period will be held from November 15 through December 31 for those who are eligible.

In addition, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored a bill to eliminate the Part D enrollment penalty for beneficiaries who enrolled in a drug plan during the enrollment period from November 15, 2006, to December 31, 2006. Under the bill, anyone who signed up for the benefit during that time would begin coverage on January 1, 2007. Unfortunately, this bill did not become law in the 109th Congress.

Since the passage of the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Senator Voinovich has personally held 31 meetings to explain the new voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit in conjunction with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Ohio Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), and the Social Security Administration (SSA). In addition, his staff has held,

participated in or attended over 500 events and meetings reaching over 6,300 beneficiaries around the state, where they helped to explain how the new Medicare prescription drug benefit could help them, listened to Ohio's seniors and then reported their concerns back to the senator.

Ensuring the Safe Reimportation of Prescription Drugs

Senator Voinovich believes that no one should have to go to Canada, or any other foreign country, to find affordable drugs, which is why he supported the new voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit. However, he also believes that seniors should have full access to every option for saving money without compromising the safety or authenticity of those drugs. That is why Senator Voinovich is urging the administration to regulate the safety of drugs imported to the United States, and why he has also co-sponsored the Safe IMPORT Act, which would create a mechanism for regulating imported drugs. While the bill does not guarantee that Americans will always save money by buying drugs from other countries, it would make it possible for Americans to have access to a variety of choices and ensure that they are getting safe and effective medicines.

Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries

During debate on the Budget Reconciliation process in the Senate in December 2005, Senator Voinovich was successful in offering an amendment to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries maintain access to power wheelchairs. As virtually all Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for power wheelchairs have a long-term or lifelong need for the products, 95 percent of the time, Medicare beneficiaries choose to purchase power wheelchairs when they are first issued as opposed to renting them.

The Senate Finance Committee's budget reconciliation package contained a provision to eliminate the initial purchase option and instead require Medicare beneficiaries to rent power wheelchairs. Senator Voinovich was concerned that requiring the beneficiaries to rent the wheelchairs could prove to be a financial burden on suppliers and decrease the number of suppliers who carry the devices. This provision would eliminate access for many beneficiaries who truly need the power wheelchairs to accomplish basic requirements of daily living. Senator Voinovich's amendment maintained the initial purchase option in order to protect the needs of Ohio's Medicare beneficiaries. It was accepted to the reconciliation bill by Unanimous Consent. The bill was amended before passing the Senate in December 2005, and remained in the bill when it was signed into law by President Bush on February 8, 2006.

Supporting Community Health Centers

Senator Voinovich has a long history of supporting funding for Community Health Centers. The Community Health Centers program is a community-run health care delivery system that is open to all regardless of their ability to pay. There are over 1,000 such health centers serving over 15 million people across the nation. Ohio has 30 community health centers at over 100 sites in both urban and rural areas throughout the state. In 2004, the centers provided care to over 297,000 Ohioans who – due to job loss, limited incomes or lack of insurance – would not otherwise have had access to health care.

In September 2006, the Senate passed the Health Centers Renewal Act, legislation co-sponsored by Senator Voinovich that reauthorizes the federal Community Health Centers program for five years. The reauthorization bill authorizes Fiscal Year 2007 funding at \$1.963 billion and the necessary sums for Fiscal Years 2008-2011. In April the senator signed onto a letter to appropriators requesting an increase of \$181 million over the Fiscal Year 2006 level.

Advancing Adult, Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Research

Senator Voinovich is concerned about the possible implications of spending taxpayer dollars on embryonic stem cell research that divides Americans on moral and ethical grounds. He believes it is his moral responsibility to direct the federal government's dollars toward the areas of research that have the greatest

near-term potential to help the largest number of Americans. That is why he voted to expand the federal investment in adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research as well as scientific ways to create embryonic stem cell lines without destroying human embryos. While embryonic cells have never been successfully used to treat even one disease, adult stem cells have been used to treat 72 diseases such as breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord injuries and many others.

A great deal of promising research on adult and umbilical cord stem cells is happening in Ohio at Cleveland's National Center for Regenerative Medicine. A partnership between Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals of Cleveland, the Center was established in 2003 to develop new adult stem cell therapies for patients suffering from chronic and debilitating diseases. Currently, the Center has 10 ongoing or planned clinic trials to further explore the use of stem cell therapies to reduce the risk of chemotherapy, treat certain heart conditions and improve umbilical stem cell treatment for leukemia.

Senator Voinovich went to the Senate floor to speak about the exciting advances at the National Center for Regenerative Medicine during debate on a series of stem cell research and related bills debated in July 2006. At this time, Senator Voinovich was pleased to support the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act of 2006 (S. 3504), which makes it illegal to conduct research on embryos from "fetal farms." In fetal farms, human embryos could be made in a nonhuman uterus or from human pregnancies that were created specifically for the purpose of research. The bill passed by a vote of 100-0, and was signed into law by the president on July 19, 2006. Senator Voinovich also supported a second bill, the Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act (S. 2754). This bill would have directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct and support basic and applied research that will lead to alternative techniques for the isolation, derivation, production or testing of pluripotent stem cells that does result in the destruction of human embryos. The bill also calls for research on adult stem cells. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 100-0, but was ultimately defeated by the House of Representatives.

Training Physicians to Serve All Our Nation's Children

Senator Voinovich co-sponsored legislation to reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program that provides critical support for training health professionals at children's teaching hospitals. The funds in this program are intended to make the level of federal support more consistent with other teaching hospitals. This is especially important to Ohio's seven children's hospitals. With Senator Voinovich's support, the reauthorization legislation was signed into law by President Bush on October 6, 2006.

Education

Improving Our Nation's Competitiveness: Math and Science Education

In order for future generations to enjoy the same standard of living and quality of life we have, we must have a highly educated and motivated workforce in the areas of science, engineering and math. In 2005, the Deficit Reduction Act, which Senator Voinovich supported, substantially increased federal student aid for students who focus on the crucial subjects of science, engineering and math. The law contained \$12 billion in new student benefits, including \$4.5 billion for two new grant programs. The first new grant, the Academic Competitiveness grants, will provide first- and second-year college students \$750 and \$1,300, respectively, if they complete a rigorous high school program and maintain a 3.0 grade point average in college. The second, SMART grants, will provide \$4,000 to juniors and seniors earning a degree in a math, science, technology or critical foreign language major.

In 2006, the senator co-sponsored the Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE) Act of 2006, legislation aimed at improving our nation's competitiveness through advancements in and emphasis on math and science education. The PACE legislation reflects the recommendations of the non-partisan

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm.” The report has gained considerable attention since its release in fall 2005 because of its innovative look at ways to advance American competitiveness through advancements in energy, education, research, immigration and trade, and tax incentives. The proposals include:

- The creation of a Director of Mathematics, Science and Engineering Education Programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) to coordinate all mathematics, science and engineering education;
- The establishment of a new office within the DOE modeled on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Authority (DARPA) to support groundbreaking energy research;
- Two new education grants by the Department of Education aimed at students in institutes of higher education and Advanced Placement programs;
- The creation of a standing subcommittee in the President’s Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology to develop national goals for education in mathematics, science and engineering across the various federal agencies that conduct such programs;
- The creation of a National Coordination Office for Advanced Research Instrumentation and Facilities;
- An increase in the overall authorization funding levels for basic research in the physical sciences by 10 percent annually from 2006 through 2013;
- Making the entire Research & Development tax credit permanent;
- Requiring the Department of Treasury, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, to analyze the U.S. tax system and its effect on the United States.
- Providing for a tax credit of up to \$500,000 annually to employers who provide qualified education to maintain or improve employees’ knowledge in science or engineering.

Senator Voinovich also co-sponsored similar legislation, the National Competitiveness Investment Act (S. 3936), which was introduced on September 20, 2006. When combined with earlier action to create new student grant programs in the Deficit Reduction Act last year, passage of the National Competitiveness Investment Act would enact more than two-thirds of the NAS recommendations.

Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness

Senator Voinovich believes that without a major commitment to education in the early years of a child’s life, there will be a growing gap between those who have the skills for knowledge-based jobs and those who do not. Again in the 109th Congress, Senator Voinovich reintroduced legislation he has sponsored with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) since coming to the Senate in the 106th Congress. The legislation aims to expand the federal loan forgiveness program to include Head Start teachers. By expanding this program, Head Start teachers could have up to \$5,000 of their student loans forgiven in exchange for five years of teaching.

A long-time champion of early childhood education programs, Senator Voinovich is committed to recruiting the best and brightest teachers for the Head Start program, which serves over 900,000 low-income children and their families. A survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) found a strong correlation between the education level of Head Start teachers and classroom quality. Nationwide, only 30 percent of Head Start teachers have completed a baccalaureate or advanced degree program.

Several studies have corroborated the importance of Head Start programs. A study conducted on a preschool program in Chicago showed that for every dollar invested in Head Start, society saved \$8 in anticipated costs down the road. Additionally, the number of children expected to finish high school increased by 26 percent, and 40 percent were less likely to repeat a grade. The National Head Start Association found that for every dollar invested in Head Start, society saves at least \$2.50 because participants need less remedial education and are less likely to utilize public assistance programs or be

involved with the juvenile justice system than non-Head Start peers. The senator will look for opportunities to include this legislation in the pending Head Start Reauthorization.

Early Childhood Program Collaboration

Together with Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Senator Voinovich successfully expanded the Centers of Excellence provision in the pending Head Start Reauthorization. Senator Alexander proposed the creation of a nationwide network of 200 Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood built around exemplary Head Start programs. This will strengthen Head Start and all early childhood programs by demonstrating a high quality early childhood curriculum that leads to school readiness.

Thanks to Senator Voinovich's leadership, the Senate Head Start Reauthorization builds on Senator Alexander's original proposal and emphasizes the importance of providing services for the health, well-being and education of our youngest citizens. The Head Start Reauthorization would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to choose Centers that already: 1) demonstrate the existence of a local council for excellence in early childhood, which shall include representatives of the institutions, agencies and groups that provide services to eligible children and other at-risk children; and 2) provide a description of how the Center will expand accessibility and continuity of quality early care and education services and coordinate the early care and education activities with programs carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Early Head Start, Early Reading First, other Title I preschool programs, the Ready to Learn television program and preschool programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This will ensure that the Centers also provide a strong example of how good Head Start programs take a seamless approach to providing comprehensive health and social services that will ensure children start school both healthy and ready to learn. The Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed this legislation on August 31, 2005. The senator will look for opportunities to include it in the pending Head Start Reauthorization.

Encouraging Reading Among Children

In their ongoing efforts to reach out to children, Senator Voinovich and his wife, Janet, supported the Read Out and Read Program (ROR), a national program that promotes literacy and language development in infants and young children. Through the program, doctors and nurses give new books to children during visits from age six months to five years, and accompany these books with developmentally appropriate advice to parents about reading aloud with their children. Volunteers read to the children in the waiting room, and each child receives a book to take home and read.

In October 2005, Senator and Mrs. Voinovich read to kindergarteners from the Urban Community School at McCafferty Health Center in Cleveland, and the ROR National Center donated several hundred books to McCafferty. The program has been in operation for more than 15 years, is government funded and was up for renewal in the fall of 2005. Over the past several years, Senator Voinovich has sent a letter to Labor, HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-PA) in support of the program. On March 17, 2005, he signed onto a letter to Chairman Specter in support of \$10 million for the program in 2006. The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill included up to \$9 million for the program when it was signed into law on December 20, 2005.

On April 1, 2006, Senator Voinovich again signed a letter with his colleagues to Chairman Specter at the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education Appropriations Committee requesting \$10 million for Reach Out and Read in fiscal year 2007. This legislation has not yet passed the Senate.

In addition, the senator – along with Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) – secured over \$14 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) Striving Readers Programs. The DYS, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and The Ohio State University, will implement a Striving Readers project to address the literacy needs of students in grades 6-12 within state juvenile corrections facilities. The purpose of the Striving Readers program is to raise the

reading achievement levels of middle and high school-aged students in Title I-eligible schools with significant numbers of students reading below grade level.

The program supports new comprehensive reading initiatives or expansion of existing initiatives that improve the quality of literacy instruction across the curriculum, provide intensive literacy interventions to struggling adolescent readers, and help to build a strong, scientific research base for identifying and replicating strategies that improve adolescent literacy skills.

School Readiness Solutions Group

Senator Voinovich served as the honorary federal co-chair of the School Readiness Solutions Group. In 2005, Ohio's State Board of Education charged the Solutions Group to help Ohio's policy leaders rethink the way early learning services are delivered to Ohio's children from birth to kindergarten. From June 2005 until August 2006, a statewide group of leaders representing a variety of professions, disciplines, and points of view met and decided upon final recommendations to create a seamless, coordinated system of delivery for early childhood services in Ohio. The ultimate goal is that the recommendations made by the Solutions Group become state law, and they are working with Governor-elect Ted Strickland on how to restructure Ohio's preschool program.

Jobs and Economic Development

Protecting Ohio's Auto Industry

Since his days as governor, Senator Voinovich has worked to strengthen the United States' leadership in promoting free and fair global trade. Senator Voinovich has worked hard to establish trade relations with other nations that would open foreign consumers to products made in Ohio; however, when proposed trade agreements could harm the interests of Ohio industries, Senator Voinovich has made every effort to protect Ohio and the United States. For example, on March 18, 2005, Senator Voinovich co-signed a letter to the Bush Administration regarding the proposed U.S.-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, advising them of the potential harm the Thailand Free Trade Agreement would cause. Most importantly, this free trade agreement could have adversely impacted the U.S. auto industry by removing a 25 percent tariff on light-trucks. So far such a free trade agreement has not come before Congress, and the senator will continue to work to keep trade agreements from harming Ohio's auto industry.

Urging Caution Over United States-Korea Trade Negotiations

In February 2006, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), sent a letter to then-U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Rob Portman urging prudence as the United States began to negotiate a United States-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KFTA). In June 2006, Senators Voinovich and Levin followed this letter with another letter to newly-appointed USTR Susan Schwab. As a co-chair of the Senate Auto Caucus, Senator Voinovich is particularly troubled by the pervasive automotive imbalance between the United States and Korea and the failure of past negotiations to curb this imbalance. Senator Voinovich remains deeply concerned that without the appropriate action by the Government of Korea, a Korea free trade agreement would significantly benefit Korean automakers without giving U.S. automakers any additional access to Korea's historically closed market. The letters emphasized that in order for the negotiations to be successful, the United States must ensure that the new agreement addresses all existing tariff and non-tariff barrier auto issues and must also ensure that future non-tariff barriers are not introduced to restrict access to the Korean auto market. The U.S. auto industry is facing difficult circumstances that put the jobs of millions of hard-working Americans at risk. It is imperative that any free trade agreement preserves these jobs and maintains a level playing field.

Leveling the Playing Field: Ending China's Currency Manipulation

Senator Voinovich frequently talks to manufacturers throughout Ohio, and repeatedly hears how Ohio manufacturers are suffering at the hand of Chinese imports with artificially low prices due to the undervaluation of the Chinese currency. For many years, China has fixed its exchange rate. This fixed exchange rate provides a hidden subsidy to China's exports. The undervaluation of the Chinese currency, which artificially lowers the cost of Chinese exports, puts Ohio companies at an unfair disadvantage in the global marketplace.

On July 21, 2005, China announced it would be reforming its exchange rate policy, a small step in the right direction of eliminating this unfair trade situation. Senator Voinovich welcomed this action by China, but has been disappointed by the slow pace of this reform. Senator Voinovich continues to press China to hold to its commitment and has taken the following actions:

- For more than a year, Senator Voinovich urged then-Treasury Secretary John Snow to put the needed pressure on China to reform its exchange rate policy.
- Early in 2005, Senator Voinovich personally spoke to China's Premier Wen Jiabao about his country's exchange rate policy. The senator told him that China's exchange rate policy was hurting many Ohio companies and did not permit American companies to compete on a level playing field.
- On May 12, 2005, Senator Voinovich became a co-sponsor of S. 984, the Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005. This legislation would amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988 to clarify the definition of currency manipulation. The Department of Treasury has continued to find that China has not met the technical definition of currency manipulation. Under S. 984, if the Department determines that a country is manipulating its currency, the Department is required to enter into negotiations with the country to address the manipulation.
- Again, after pressing the administration to address China's currency manipulation, on June 12, 2006, Senator Voinovich became a co-sponsor of S. 2467, the United States Trade Enhancement Act, which was introduced by Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA). This legislation is designed to address sustained imbalances in currency exchange rates that harm the U.S. economy and bolster U.S. trade enforcement capabilities to focus on specific trade barriers. Senator Voinovich believes this law will help the Department of Treasury address China's currency manipulation, which continues to harm Ohio's companies by subjecting them to unfairly traded Chinese products.
- On June 29, 2006, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to newly-appointed Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson, expressing his deep concern regarding China's ongoing currency manipulation.
- On August 3, 2006, Senator Voinovich personally met with Secretary Paulson to discuss the issue of China's fixed currency and how best to resolve this issue.

Protecting Intellectual Property Rights

For U.S. manufacturers, protection of intellectual property is not an abstract concept. America's competitive edge is derived from innovation and rising productivity, and the protection of intellectual property remains one of the best means for ensuring that American manufacturers enjoy the benefits of their investments. The U.S. must ensure that the products made from American innovation are not illegally copied. Senator Voinovich has committed himself over the last three years to protecting intellectual property rights, taking the following actions in the 109th Congress:

- On March 16, 2005, Senator Voinovich became a co-sponsor to S. 593, the Stopping Overseas Subsidies Act of 2005. This legislation was a re-introduction of S. 2212 from the 108th Congress, which he also co-sponsored. The bill would give the U.S. government the legal strength to

enforce fair trade laws against all countries that export goods into the United States by revising current trade laws.

- On April 1, 2005, Senator Voinovich met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his trip to China. He told Premier Wen that China needs to take more effective actions to enforce IPR in China and should move toward a more flexible exchange rate for the yuan. The senator discussed China's failure to protect IPR in accordance with its commitments under trade agreements with the United States, and gave him documentation on three Ohio companies that have had problems with intellectual property theft by firms operating in China. Senator Voinovich has worked with the Bush Administration to help these three Ohio manufacturers get the assistance they need from the federal government to combat the theft of their intellectual property.
- On April 14, 2005, Senator Voinovich met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez to discuss trade issues, including how the administration can take more effective action to combat unfair trading practices by China. Secretary Gutierrez agreed to help in the senator's efforts to assist Ohio companies that have been the victims of intellectual property theft abroad. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has initiated a series of briefings across the United States designed for small and medium businesses that need assistance in understanding intellectual property rights when conducting business overseas.
- Continuing a series of trade-related hearings Senator Voinovich has held in recent years – which include hearings on April 22, 2002, December 9, 2003, and April 20, 2004 – the senator chaired a hearing on the Bush Administration's Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy entitled, "Finding and Fighting Fakes: Reviewing the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy," on June 14, 2005. International trade in counterfeit and pirated goods accounts for an estimated 7 percent of all global trade. The impact of this trade on the American economy is substantial with the trade in counterfeit goods alone costing U.S. industry between \$200 and \$250 billion annually according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.
- Following the hearing on the STOP! initiative, Senator Voinovich wrote a letter to the president, urging him to appoint, as soon as possible, an intellectual property czar responsible for coordinating the various federal agencies and departments responsible for protecting American intellectual property abroad. In July 2005, the president appointed Chris Israel as Coordinator of International Intellectual Property Enforcement.
- On September 14, 2005, Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of S. 1699, the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act, introduced by Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). The bill makes it a crime to traffic in counterfeit labels or packaging even when they are shipped separately from the products to which they are later attached. This bill would close a loophole in U.S. intellectual property laws that has allowed sophisticated counterfeiters to escape liability. S. 1699 currently has 15 co-sponsors and on November 3, 2005, was reported out of the Judiciary Committee to the full Senate. The House passed similar legislation in May 2005.
- On October 18, 2005, Senator Voinovich and Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), as co-chairs of the Senate Auto Caucus, sponsored a Congressional briefing on the problems of counterfeiting in the auto parts industry. The purpose of the briefing was to increase awareness on Capitol Hill of the problem of intellectual property theft and what Congress can do to help companies that become the victims of intellectual property theft. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's series of briefings have helped small and medium businesses understand intellectual property rights when conducting business overseas.
- Senator Voinovich successfully worked with many companies in Ohio to resolve trade disputes with China. On many occasions, he contacted the Department of Commerce, and he also sent letters to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff,

Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and then-U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman requesting their assistance with cases.

- On November 9, 2005, Senator Voinovich introduced the Intellectual Property Enforcement Act with Senator Evan Bayh. The legislation is designed to take a number of important actions including: formalizing efforts the president has undertaken to address IP theft; making the STOP! initiative permanent; elevating the members of the Executive Branch who work to enforce and coordinate IP policy; and establishing an international framework to fight IP theft.
- On February 15, 2006, the Senate passed H.R. 32, the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act, by Unanimous Consent. The House bill was substantially the same as S. 1699, which Senator Voinovich co-sponsored. This legislation passed the Senate with Senator Voinovich's support and was signed into law on March 16, 2006.
- On May 1, 2006, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to Secretary Gutierrez, expressing his concern for China's continued violation of IP rights and how it has affected Ohio's manufacturing industry.
- On July 26, 2006, Senator Voinovich, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, held a hearing entitled "STOP!: A Progress Report on Protecting and Enforcing Intellectual Property Rights Here and Abroad." This hearing was focused on assessing the activities of the STOP! initiative and the National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council (NIPLECC). One of the witnesses, Anthony LaPlaca from Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, works in Ohio. Senator Voinovich believes this series of intellectual property hearings shows that progress has been made in the United States' intellectual property coordination and enforcement. They have also shown the need to pass the legislation of Senators Bayh and Voinovich that makes these improvements permanent.

Protecting State Economic Development Incentives: CUNO v. DaimlerChrysler

On September 2, 2004, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Cuno v. DaimlerChrysler* that Ohio's investment tax credit program violated the U.S. Constitution's commerce clause. The tax credit program in question, the Ohio Machinery and Equipment Investment Tax Credit, was used successfully by Senator Voinovich while he was governor to convince DaimlerChrysler to build its Jeep plant in Toledo.

In May 2005, Senator Voinovich authored legislation, the Economic Development Act of 2005 (EDA), to defend the rights of states to offer tax incentives to promote economic development and create jobs within their borders. Specifically, his bill would ensure that traditional tax incentives, such as the Ohio tax credit, do not violate the Constitution's interstate commerce clause. It authorizes the state to provide traditional development and expansion tax incentives. The bill has bipartisan support and has been co-sponsored by all the senators in the Sixth Circuit: Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Mike DeWine (R-OH), Carl Levin (D-MI), Bill Frist (R-TN), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Jim Bunning (R-KY). It has also received support from the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

In May 2005 the Supreme Court remanded the *Cuno* case back to the lower court, holding that the tax payers who brought the original suit did not have legal standing to challenge the manufacturers; however, the Court's decision left the legality of the tax incentives open to the potential for future challenges. The senator will continue to work toward passage of the EDA to eliminate all uncertainty regarding the legitimacy of these tax credits.

Working to Enact Asbestos Legislation

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Senator Voinovich has worked with Ohio companies to enact legislation to establish medical criteria and screening for individuals seeking payment for asbestos injuries so those who truly deserve compensation can get it. On April 19, 2005, Senator Voinovich joined Senator

Arlen Specter (R-PA) and a bipartisan group of senators to introduce S. 825, the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2005. The legislation is the result of much deliberation and compromise. While the bill ensures that truly sick individuals receive fair and just compensation, it also protects against frivolous lawsuits. Runaway asbestos litigation has forced many Ohio companies into bankruptcy. These bankruptcies have prevented many victims who are sick from receiving proper compensation. Senator Voinovich will continue to work with a bipartisan group of senators to ensure that this legislation passes the Senate.

Reforming America's Troubled Tort System

Since his days as governor of Ohio, George Voinovich has been concerned with what he calls the litigation tornado that is sweeping through Ohio, as well as the nation. As governor, he was instrumental in the passage of tort reform legislation in the state of Ohio which, unfortunately, was struck down by the Ohio Supreme Court.

As a member of the Senate, he has focused on addressing the devastating impact of litigation on Ohio and the country. On January 25, 2005, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) as a co-sponsor of S. 5, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005. This bill improves the handling of massive U.S. class action lawsuits while preserving the rights of citizens to bring such actions. It protects the rights of citizens by ensuring fairer outcomes for class action lawsuit members and defendants. For example, the bill prohibited a U.S. district court from approving coupon settlements to class members that had not been deemed "fair, reasonable, and adequate." This provision was included to ensure that the injured parties receive just compensation, and that the awards cover more than transaction costs and lawyers' fees. This legislation also created a structure by which district courts could decline to exercise original jurisdiction, thereby passing a case to the federal court system. On February 10, 2005, the Senate passed S. 5 with Senator Voinovich's support. President Bush signed this legislation into law on February 18, 2005.

Energy

Second Declaration of Independence

To remain competitive in the global marketplace, the nation must control energy costs. Establishing a sound energy policy is critical to protecting American jobs and reducing energy costs for millions of families and businesses across America. That is why it is time for a "Second Declaration of Independence" – independence from foreign sources of energy. This is important not only for our economic interests, but our national security interests as well. In this era when the United States is engaged in the Global War on Terror, helping curb dependence on foreign sources of energy is even more critical.

The Energy Bill passed in 2005 is a tremendous step toward the nation's energy independence, but more must be done. Much like the nation committed itself when the Soviets launched Sputnik and the United States and the Soviet Union entered the race to space, the country should have a national commitment to becoming more energy independent. Establishing a sound energy policy, protecting the environment and stimulating the economy are interdependent priorities. Senator Voinovich will continue to work with his colleagues and the administration to sever the outflow of jobs and reduce energy costs.

A Comprehensive Energy Policy: the Energy Bill

After five years of hard work, the Senate passed the Energy Bill in 2005, marking the first time in decades that the United States will have a comprehensive energy plan. This bill will increase access to domestic energy resources and will result in a stronger economy for Ohio in the decades to come. High energy costs are negatively impacting Ohio's economy and forcing our neediest, the poor and elderly, to choose between paying their utility bills and other essential needs. The bill contains the following provisions:

- **Mandatory Electric Reliability Standards** – The Energy Bill includes provisions that will provide the federal government with mandatory, enforceable electricity reliability standards to protect the reliability of the electricity grid. In 2003, Senator Voinovich held two hearings on this important issue, and expert witnesses at both hearings agreed standards such as these will help prevent future blackouts. The conference report changes the current voluntary system that operators of the nation’s transmission grid operate under to a new mandatory, enforceable system that will include penalties for violating the new standards. Reliability standards like these will help prevent future blackouts such as the one that knocked out power to much of Ohio, the Northeast United States and parts of Canada on August 14, 2003.
- **Ethanol** – The Energy Bill contains a provision that will increase the national use of ethanol to 7.5 billion gallons annually by 2012, an increase from the 3.4 billion gallons produced in 2004. This increase in ethanol production will benefit Ohio’s farmers. Ohio is currently the sixth largest corn-producing state and ranks fourth in use of ethanol (behind California, Illinois and Minnesota). This provision will help Ohio develop an ethanol industry, which will strengthen Ohio’s economy. For example, construction of a plant capable of producing 50 million gallons annually would take 14 to 18 months to complete, create 370 local jobs and generate approximately \$60 to \$130 million in additional income. Once operational, a plant of this size would rely on an estimated 18 million bushels of corn annually, employ approximately 50 people and generate an estimated \$47 to \$100 million in additional income. Currently, there are eleven ethanol plants in Ohio that are under construction or seeking permits.
- **Clean Coal Technology** – The Energy Bill calls for public-private clean coal research and development to be implemented by government-industry partnerships, which will keep coal-fired electricity cost-effective and competitive while lowering emissions. Funding will demonstrate the commercial applicability of advanced coal-based projects and will support technology for the capture of carbon dioxide. Additionally, the bill creates \$2.9 billion in new clean coal tax incentives, which will offset the risks associated with early commercial applications of advanced clean coal. It will also assist in re-powering and retrofitting existing coal-based generation facilities with clean coal technology.
- **Amendment to Increase Jet Fuel Efficiency** – Senator Voinovich’s amendment to the Energy Bill would bring high paying aerospace jobs to Ohio by requiring NASA and the Department of Energy to collaborate on research and development efforts to increase jet engine fuel efficiency by 10 percent by 2010. A 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption, when fully commercialized, would save 130 million gallons of jet fuel every year. With this amendment, jobs could be promoted at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and the GE facility in Evendale.
- **Renewable Energy** – The Energy Bill creates \$2.9 billion in renewable and clean energy tax incentives. These funds will be used to support renewable electricity produced from wind, closed-and open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas and trash combustion facilities.

Energy Summit with Ohio University’s CE3

Senator Voinovich believes Ohio can play an integral role in securing America’s energy future. On March 3, 2006, the senator co-hosted an energy summit with Ohio University’s highly regarded Consortium for Energy, Economics, and the Environment (CE3). The purpose of the summit was to convene Ohio energy, environmental and economic development stakeholders and policymakers to craft recommendations on the role Ohio can play in reducing dependence on foreign energy. CE3 summarized the recommendations resulting from the energy summit in a report titled: “Ohio: Securing America’s Energy Future.” The senator joined Ohio University President Roderick McDavis in formally presenting this Ohio University report on September 18, 2006. So far, CE3 has utilized the report to brief newly-

elected state policymakers. It has also sparked new partnerships in the state academic community and will serve as an important discussion piece as Ohio considers energy policy issues.

Cleaning the Environment

Clean Air

As the Chairman of the Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich has made science-based emissions reduction a priority to help improve public health and protect our environment. He has also fought to ensure that when federal regulatory agencies formulate new rules and mandates, that they have common-sense objectives and provide Ohio's communities and businesses with flexibility in attaining our shared goals of environmental protection. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the scientific data every five years for these air standards, but does not require the agency to change the standards unless deemed necessary. Due to court challenges, the EPA's 1997 standards for particulate matter (PM) are just being implemented, and Senator Voinovich has urged the agency not to change the air standards for businesses and communities when they are unsure of how they will meet EPA's latest set of regulations.

In 2006 Senator Voinovich held two oversight hearings on EPA's new rule regulating PM standards through the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) process. At the hearing on July 13, Bill Christopher, Executive Director of Alcoa, testified in support of the senator's position. He said, "Our efforts to achieve cleaner air must achieve a delicate balance. They must take into account the potentially significant economic costs to places like Cleveland that are in the midst of painful economic transitions.... Achieving this balance is complicated because the timelines for meeting the Clean Air Act standards are misaligned with the timelines for several federal standards established to regulate emissions in particular industries. The gaps created by these misalignments add economic costs of compliance that could be devastating in places that rely on manufacturing as a key element of their economies."

If a community does not comply with EPA's air standards, they are ruled to be in "nonattainment." Of the 495 counties nationwide in nonattainment, 38 are in Ohio. Nonattainment designation forces communities to find other ways to reduce emissions and can stigmatize communities from attracting new development or even result in a loss of transportation funding. Failure to comply with EPA air standards translates to lost jobs and hampers economic development, and it puts Ohio's manufacturing industry and urban areas at competitive disadvantages. Many utilities will switch to very expensive natural gas for electricity generation to meet the rigid and continually changing air quality regulations. The high cost of natural gas has been a major contributing factor pushing American manufacturing jobs overseas. At an oversight hearing in July, Bill Christopher of Alcoa also stated that the cost of reducing manufacturing pollution as a percentage of manufacturing output is 7.6 percent in the United States. To put that figure in a global context, the cost in Japan is 3.1 percent, in Germany 5.2 percent, in Great Britain 4.7 percent, in Mexico 3.1 percent and in China 1.6 percent.

The EPA's clean air rules are re-evaluated every five years; however, the 1997 rules have now only begun to be implemented. Despite this fact, the EPA continues its clean air review process and continues to offer new rules even though the old ones have not been implemented. As a result, cities like Cleveland must develop action plans to meet old standards. EPA should not change the rules in the middle of the game. Because of Senator Voinovich's hearings and involvement, the administration did not change the yearly PM standards and decided instead to change only the daily PM standards. This victory provides continued protection for the environment without further jeopardizing Ohio's communities as they work to comply with EPA standards. The senator remains committed to ensuring that the air we breathe and our environment are protected, but has remained steadfast that when EPA issues new stringent regulations they be based on sound science.

Bringing Cleveland Into Compliance

The Cleveland area faces tremendous difficulties in coming into attainment with the ozone standard by the required date of 2010. In submitted testimony for a Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety hearing chaired by Senator Voinovich, Ohio EPA Director Joe Koncelik stated, “We have performed studies that show that even if all of industry was shut down and the area depopulated, it would just barely be able to meet the standard by 2010....” Failure to attain the standard by this date means greater economic restrictions would be imposed on an already suffering area, which would have a devastating impact on jobs and businesses. At the hearing, Senator Voinovich obtained a commitment from the U.S. EPA to work with him, Ohio EPA and other groups, including Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), on bringing Cleveland into compliance with the ozone air quality standard.

The EPA has the authority to approve a plan based on a “weight of evidence” determination, meaning that the area comes close enough to meeting the standard. The Agency has discretion to look at the data and determine that the plan should get the area into attainment even though the modeling does not currently show it. With a change in the state administration and the ozone implementation plan due in June 2007, Senator Voinovich will stay involved in this process to ensure continuity on this issue and make sure that the Agency understands the importance of this issue.

Support for Sensible Reductions of Mercury Emissions

Senator Voinovich led the fight on the Senate floor to defeat a resolution aimed at overturning EPA’s Clean Air Mercury Rule, which mandates reducing power plant emissions of mercury by 70 percent. This rule made the United States the first nation in the world to regulate mercury emissions from existing coal-fired power plants. Proponents of rolling back the new mercury rule advocate for a different, more stringent standard that would have little impact at great cost. The resolution was defeated 51 to 47.

EPA’s mercury regulations establish a “cap-and-trade” program to cut overall power plant mercury emissions. This approach has proven to be extremely efficient and cost-effective in reducing emissions. Proponents of rolling back the new mercury rule advocate for a different kind of standard, which would require a 90 percent reduction in just three years, even though there is no commercial technology available that can offer these reductions.

While EPA estimates the cost of its cap-and-trade rule at about \$2 billion, the independent Energy Information Administration has projected costs as high as \$358 billion for a hypothetical plan to reduce emissions by 90 percent, which is why the senator fought those who worked to make a more restrictive rule. The return for such a regulation would be an average increase in national electricity and natural gas prices of 20 percent, an additional reduction in U.S. mercury deposition of 2 percent, and an almost immeasurable decline in people’s exposure to mercury.

The reason this more stringent regulation would have little or no benefit is because U.S. power plants account for a small percentage of worldwide mercury emissions, and most of the mercury deposited in the nation comes from outside the country and natural sources. Mercury pollution is a global issue because it can travel thousands of miles. About 55 percent of worldwide mercury emissions come from natural sources, such as oceans and volcanoes. Only 1 percent come from U.S. power plants. From 1990 to 1999, EPA estimates that U.S. emissions of mercury were reduced by nearly half – which has been completely offset by increases in emissions from Asia. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated in their 2005 comprehensive report that all U.S. women of childbearing age studied had blood mercury levels below that associated with neurodevelopmental effects in the fetus.

Senator Voinovich is a strong advocate for reducing mercury emissions from power plants to decrease the health risk. In fact, he is the main advocate for a plan that would responsibly achieve greater reductions in mercury emissions than EPA’s rule – but he is not in support of a proposal that would impose extreme costs on Ohio families and businesses for little or no benefit.

Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment

On June 16, 2005, after working with a broad group of environmental and industrial groups, as well as a bipartisan group of senators, Senator Voinovich introduced the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), which authorized \$1 billion over 5 years to establish voluntary grant and loan programs for diesel reduction. DERA was passed into law 45 days later on August 8, 2005, making it the fastest piece of legislation ever to move through the Senate.

DERA is one of the best actions we can take to improve air quality and help states and localities meet the nation's new clean air standards, as on- and off-road diesel vehicles and engines account for roughly one-half of the nitrogen oxide and particulate matter mobile source emissions nationwide. The long lifespan of the nation's 11 million diesel engines will make it difficult to realize near-term benefits of emission reductions without federal assistance to states to implement diesel retrofit programs. DERA has enjoyed wide, bipartisan support from advocacy groups as well as industry leaders because of its broad and flexible focus to assist states, local governments, and private entities in complementing on-going diesel emissions programs. According to estimates performed by EPA, full funding for DERA would provide a net benefit of \$20 billion and a reduction of approximately 70,000 tons of particulate matter, making it a pivotal piece of legislation to help areas come into attainment for the new clean air standards. This equates to a 13 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio, which far exceeds many federal programs.

Because of Senator Voinovich's strong leadership, the president's budget included \$50 million for DERA. In addition, Senator Voinovich led a diesel emissions reduction coalition where 50 senators and 100 members of Congress signed letters of support for the president's DERA budget request.

Providing for the Safe and Secure Growth of Nuclear Power

As Chairman of the Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich continued his commitment to enhancing the role of nuclear power for our nation's energy needs, while conducting strong oversight to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with the necessary tools to ensure our America's renaissance in nuclear power.

Senator Voinovich's work in the 2005 Energy Policy Act helped pave the way for an expected 19 applications for 30 new nuclear power plants in the United States, which could provide millions of homes with safe, emissions-free energy. The growing resurgence in nuclear power will provide significant challenges to the NRC because no new licenses have been processed in 25 years, while other nations like France have built 50 new plants during that same period. Senator Voinovich has actively engaged the White House in confirming new NRC Chairman Dale Klein and conducting two oversight hearings to ensure that the regulatory agency has enough trained staff, as well as human capital resources to manage the nation's 103 nuclear power plants and growing regulatory workload at NRC.

The NRC is expected to hire more than 600 new employees by 2008 to meet the increasing demand for new nuclear license applications, and Senator Voinovich has taken the lead in ensuring that safety remains the paramount concern at the agency. In 2006, Senator Voinovich joined a bipartisan group of his colleagues from the Environment and Public Works Committee in requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examine the reactor oversight process (ROP) at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure that our nation's nuclear power plants were effectively implementing a measurable safety culture at their units. Senator Voinovich was instrumental in focusing the agency to establish a set of standards for safety culture at the NRC beginning in 2004. The GAO acknowledged that the agency is devoting considerable time and effort to improving the ROP and has engaged the nuclear industry to continue its safety efforts. If there will be a true nuclear renaissance, safety culture will most likely be the critical performance standard in the future.

Senator Voinovich was a leader in securing an additional \$20 million in the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill to assist the agency in its human capital challenges for license applications and to hire and train additional employees. In addition, he joined his colleague Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) in

sending a letter to the Office of Management and Budget concerning the need for additional office space for the NRC to effectively manage and attract new staff to handle their increasing workload. OMB has approved the NRC's request, and GSA and NRC are currently working to locate suitable office space.

Great Lakes Restoration and Protection from Aquatic Invasive Species

On December 12, 2005, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) released a consensus comprehensive plan aimed at restoring the Great Lakes. Senator Voinovich actively sought the development of this plan and urged the GLRC to develop a final plan that provides immediate and long-term impacts on the Great Lakes. On March 16, 2006, Senator Voinovich chaired a full committee hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee to examine the recommendations in the GLRC report. The hearing included key players helping to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

On April 5, 2006, Senator Voinovich became an original co-sponsor of the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act of 2006 (S. 2545) introduced by Senator DeWine. This Act included many of the recommendations contained within the GLRC strategy document released in December 2005. It was referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for further consideration.

In addition, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006 (S. 2430). The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration program provides grants to restore fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes. It is a critical piece of this restoration effort, and the GLRC recommended that it be authorized. This bill reauthorizes the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act through 2012 and increases authorization levels from \$8 million to \$16 million. It also makes needed changes to the law to help streamline decision making efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service, making restoration efforts easier. The legislation complements the goals of the Regional Collaboration by allowing the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to build strong partnerships focused on the restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Senator Voinovich was critical in moving this legislation through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on May 23, 2006. It became public law on October 11, 2006.

On June 5, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the beginning of a \$50 million project to clean up contaminated sediments in the Ashtabula River. The federal-state-local cleanup project will be carried out under the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002. Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of this bill and worked to get it enacted through the EPW Committee. It is aimed at cleaning up 31 toxic hot spots known as Areas of Concern (AOCs) around the Great Lakes. The bill authorized \$270 million over five years – \$50 million annually for cleanup activities. Senator Voinovich has consistently supported full funding for this Act.

On June 15, 2006, Senator Voinovich successfully included an amendment in the final Supplemental Appropriations Conference Report to provide \$400,000 to keep the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal demonstration barrier operating through the end of Fiscal Year 2006. The funding is offset from existing Army Corps of Engineers dollars and will not add to the deficit. The demonstration barrier in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal was authorized in 1996 under the National Invasive Species Act to prevent non-native species like the Asian carp from moving between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. Asian Carp threaten native fish by quickly consuming large quantities of phytoplankton, which is critical to the stability of the ecosystem. Originally, they were introduced to the United States as a management tool for aqua culture farms and sewage treatment facilities. During massive flooding along the Mississippi River more than 10 years ago, the carp escaped from fish farms and made their way north to the Illinois River. The demonstration barrier is a vital tool for preventing them from moving onward into the Great Lakes. Since this barrier was designed to be temporary and is close to the end of its expected service life, a second permanent barrier is being constructed. The Army Corps of Engineers indicated that they would be forced to shut down the demonstration barrier without additional funding – putting the region's \$4.1 billion sport and commercial fishing industry at great risk.

Funding for Ohio Through Energy and Water Appropriations

It is of utmost importance that Ohio has full funding for its water infrastructure projects and energy projects. The 2006 Energy and Water Conference Report will ensure that Ohio is able to fulfill its energy, environmental and research and development needs. The Senate passed this important piece of legislation in November 2005, providing \$30.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of independent agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Overall, the bill provides almost \$5.4 billion to the Corps, \$1 billion more than the president's budget request and \$400 million more than the appropriation for 2005. This includes \$2.37 billion for construction and \$1.989 billion for operations and maintenance. It also provides \$24.29 billion for DOE, \$770,000 more than the president's request. Senator Voinovich helped secure the following funding for projects of importance to Ohio:

- **Appalachian Regional Commission** – Received in Conference Report: \$65.5 million. Since his days as governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich has been strongly committed to helping Appalachian Ohio overcome its unique obstacles. The House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill included a cut in funding for the ARC budget. Knowing that such a cut in funding for the region would be devastating, Senator Voinovich led the fight to ensure that the funds would not be cut in the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report. Fortunately, the conference report provides the same level as the president's request and the 2005 appropriation.
- **Research and Development of Fuel Processors for Fuel Cell Systems for Stationary Power Generation in Ohio (Alliance and Mount Vernon)** – Received in Conference Report: \$3 million. Funding will be used for the research and development of fuel processors for megawatt-scale oxide fuel cells for stationary power generation in Ohio. This money will be used by SOFCo-EFS and Rolls Royce Fuel Cell Systems. It will benefit Ohio by increasing knowledge related to fuel processing for fuel cell systems and supporting local manufacturing through supply-chain expansion.
- **Cincinnati Riverfront Plan (Cincinnati)** – Received in Conference Report: \$250,000. Cincinnati Central Riverfront Park (CRP) is located in downtown Cincinnati on the Ohio River, bound by I-75, Broadway Street, the Ohio River and Third Street. The CRP site, currently a surface parking lot, is envisioned to become Cincinnati's new "front yard," complementing riverfront projects totaling \$2 billion. The park will be the setting for such projects as the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, a new multi-modal transit center, Paul Brown Stadium, Great American Ball Park and The Banks, the region's preeminent development opportunity.
- **Cleveland Clinic Foundation Brain Mapping Project (Cleveland)** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Cleveland Clinic is striving to develop state-of-the-art resources that will make brain imaging faster, more accurate, safer and less expensive. This funding will be used to purchase state-of-the-art imaging equipment that will have the ability to conduct magnetic resonance imaging that is safer for the growing number of patients with electronic devices. These resources will ensure that Cleveland Clinic neuroscientists and physicians can continue their groundbreaking research and deliver the best treatments possible to improve the lives of patients with diseases of the brain.
- **Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio: Pyramid Resource Center (Grove City)** – Received in Conference Report: \$2 million. This project will be a 225-acre premier international development focused on growing environmentally sensitive companies and industries. It will also serve as a training and research incubator for solid waste professionals from around the world. The incubator will be comprised of numerous businesses and will also offer technological support, act as an information and network clearinghouse, as well as a communications hub, complementing its training, research and business development activities.

- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Fernald Facility (Harrison)** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Fernald Facility in Harrison who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Fernald Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$327.6 million. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE's past operations building weapons during the Cold War.
- **Center for Intelligent Fuel Cell Materials Design (Mentor)** – Received in Conference Report: \$1.5 million. This funding will help develop power-efficient and economically viable materials for fuel cell usage in transportation, defense, aerospace and portable power applications. Ohio has been at the forefront of fuel-cell research for a number of years. The Center for Intelligent Fuel Cell Materials Design is focused on addressing fuel cell-based, renewable energy and offering the ability to produce new high-tech jobs for the city of Mentor and Ohio. The money will be used by Chemsultants International, Inc. in Mentor, Ohio, and the Michigan Molecular Institute.
- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Mound Facility (Miamisburg)** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Mound Facility in Miamisburg who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Mound Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$105.5 million. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE's past operations building weapons during the Cold War.
- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Portsmouth Facility, Paducah Facility in Kentucky and Oak Ridge Facility in Tennessee** – Received in Conference Report: \$465,000. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Portsmouth Facility, as well as Paducah Facility in Kentucky and Oak Ridge Facility in Tennessee who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Portsmouth Facility (Portsmouth)** – Received in Conference Report: \$192.2 million. Senator Voinovich fought hard to stop a potential cut of \$17 million to this project and sent letters to conferees and to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman on the topic. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE's past operations building weapons during the Cold War.
- **Ottawa River Shoreland Avenue Embankment Restoration and Stabilization Project (Toledo)** – Received in Conference Report: \$660,000. This project includes reconstruction of the Ottawa River shoreline and adjoining embankment and roadway.

Cleaning Up Brownfield Sites

On June 14, 2006, Senator Voinovich introduced the America's Brownfield Cleanup Act – legislation to provide incentives to clean up abandoned industrial sites, or Brownfields, across the country and put them back into productive use and preserve green space. Brownfield sites represent real environmental threats but also vital opportunities for job creation and economic development. The legislation provides \$1

billion in federal tax credits – called environmental remediation credits – allocated to states according to population. These credits, which are transferable, would cover 50 percent of the qualified remediation expenditures at a qualified contaminated site in an eligible area. Eligible areas include local government areas with at least one census tract with a 20 percent poverty rate, as well as Indian tribal lands.

In order to receive these credits, two approved plans must be in place: a remediation plan and a redevelopment plan. The remediation plan must be approved by the state environmental agency pursuant to a response program contained in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As a result, the remediation plan will apply to those sites that are enrolled in state voluntary cleanup plans and are entitled to the liability protections provided by the 2002 Brownfields legislation. The redevelopment plan must be approved by the state development agency and demonstrate how the redevelopment will be beneficial to the state and local economy, as well as the local community. The state is to establish an allocation plan that lists the selection criteria to determine the priorities in providing the credits.

In order to showcase his work on the America's Brownfield Cleanup Act, Senator Voinovich conducted a press conference in Dayton at the future site of Tech Town. This site was owned by GM and will become a multiuse technical and commercial park. The city has begun redevelopment activities on the 40-acre property. It is working to secure the remaining funding for the entire project.

Combating the Emerald Ash Borer

Senator Voinovich is pleased that the 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report included \$10 million to help combat the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB, an ash-tree killing insect from Asia, was identified in Ohio in 2003. Since then, Senator Voinovich and Ohio officials have been working to battle the pest in order to protect the state's more than 3.8 billion ash trees. EAB is a deadly threat to ash trees, killing host trees within three to five years of infestation. Research has shown that the natural spread of the pest is less than one-half mile per year. However, EAB can be easily, yet unknowingly, spread through the movement of infested ash material such as logs, nursery stock and firewood. The majority of Ohio's infestations were introduced through the artificial spread of this insect.

In March 2006 Senator Voinovich and Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH), along with senators from Indiana and Michigan, sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns requesting emergency funding to control the spread of the EAB. Officials of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan have asked for \$45 million in emergency federal funding to fight the spread of the beetle. The states have received \$10 million in eradication funding through fiscal year 2006, and officials expect a total of \$55 million is needed to effectively carry out identification and eradication programs.

Comments and Quotes on CUNO

"The Economic Development Act of 2005, introduced in May by Sens. George Voinovich, Ohio Republican, and Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Democrat, and every senator from the 6th Circuit's four states and Reps. Pat Tiberi, Ohio Republican, Ben Chandler, Kentucky Democrat, and Ron Lewis, Kentucky Republican, affirms states' rights to provide nondiscriminatory tax incentives for the purposes of economic development. This bipartisan group of legislators are acting none too soon because the threat is serious and real. While the Cuno decision has thrown open the question whether states and localities have the right to set their own tax policy by enacting positive tax incentives, the economic aspects of such incentives are beyond debate. For states, such tax incentives are one of the few tools available to them to retain or attract business."

Op-Ed by James T. Young, *Benedict Arnold Courts*, Washington Times, July 24, 2005

“Now Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Ky., and others are pushing a bill to neutralize that ruling and give all 50 states broad authority to do tax break deals. States today compete for business against Asia and Europe as much as against one another, and they should not have to compete at a global disadvantage. Most governors insist they need tax incentives to persuade companies to expand or relocate, and employers that make such decisions should not be left wondering if promised tax breaks will later be ruled invalid by the courts. Congress should clear up the doubt.”

Editorial, *Ensure legality of state jobs incentives*, Cincinnati Enquirer, May 23, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Energy

“Voinovich understands the need for an energy strategy that operates on many fronts, from renewables to nuclear power to improved efficiency.”

Editorial, *Renewed Energy: The Senate Revives Hope that the Country Will Soon Address Its Energy Challenges in an Appropriately Comprehensive Way*, Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 2005

“Sen. George V. Voinovich helped craft a trio of nuclear energy bills that emerged last week from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Ohio Republican, a member of the committee, said in a statement that he is a ‘strong advocate of nuclear power because it plays a critical role in meeting our nation’s energy, economic and environmental needs.’ The bills include proposals to strengthen nuclear power plant security and extend nuclear-plant liability protection for another 20 years, which proponents say is imperative for the construction of new nuclear plants.”

News Article, *D.C. Dispatches: Voinovich helps to create bills protecting nuclear power*, Columbus Dispatch, June 12, 2005

Comments and Quotes on the Environment

“U.S. Senator George Voinovich has responded with a remarkable piece of legislation that hasn’t just gained acceptance, but is being cheered loudly in the business, regulatory, scientific and environmental communities. If enacted, it would go a long way toward helping to solve a major public health problem.”

Editorial, *Voinovich Has Idea on Clearing the Air*, Dayton Daily News, June 25, 2005

“U.S. Sen. George Voinovich is shepherding a bill through the Senate that would give grants to retrofit old diesel engines to make them more emissions friendly. New federal regulations make new diesel engines cleaner. But, Voinovich, R-Ohio, doesn’t think that’s enough. That’s because the long lives of the estimated 11 million existing diesel engines could prevent the intended benefits of the new regulations from being seen for decades.”

News Article, *Making diesels burn cleaner*, Cincinnati Post, July 25, 2005

“We’re also happy to report that the energy bill includes the voluntary incentives proposed by Ohio Sen. George Voinovich and others to encourage the installation of pollution control equipment on older diesel engines. It won’t do much to improve energy efficiency, but it will help clean the air.”

News Article, *A disappointing effort*, Cincinnati Post, July 29, 2005

“George Voinovich also played a valuable role. If this Ohio Republican has yet to see the light (or heat) on global warming, he did markedly advance the cause of reducing emissions from diesel vehicles, the energy bill containing incentives for retrofitting the engines. Voinovich understands the need for an energy strategy that operates on many fronts, from renewables to nuclear power to improved efficiency.”

News Article, *Renewed Energy: The Senate Revives Hope that the Country Will Soon Address Its Energy Challenges in an Appropriately Comprehensive Way*, Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 2005

Improving Government

By harnessing the skills and dedication of our best and brightest and creating an environment that encourages – indeed, expects – federal employees to be innovative, we will be better prepared for future disasters.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Statement, August 29, 2006

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee Chairman

Senator Voinovich is chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes the following important issues:

- The management, efficiency, effectiveness and economy of all departments, agencies and programs of the federal government, including overlap and duplication in federal programs;
- The intergovernmental relationships between the federal government and state and local governments;
- Federal civil service matters, including compensation, classification, labor management relations, recruitment and training, benefits including health care, and other matters relating to human capital management;
- The effectiveness of national security staffing; and
- Oversight of all matters relating to the District of Columbia requiring congressional attention.

Senator Voinovich has made the reform of the federal workforce his top priority for the Subcommittee. However, his Subcommittee jurisdiction affords him the unique opportunity to investigate broad areas of federal government management and operations. Therefore, he has used the Subcommittee to conduct oversight of a wide range of agencies and programs. In addition, Senator Voinovich focuses greater attention on homeland security issues now that the Committee has been given the primary responsibility for overseeing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Senate. Finally, Senator Voinovich continues to pursue improvements in the operations of the District of Columbia and U.S. Postal Service.

Senator Voinovich chaired 17 hearings in 2005 on a wide variety of topics:

- **February 10, 2005:** “Unlocking the Potential within Homeland Security: the New Human Resources System”
- **February 17, 2005:** “Programs In Peril: An Overview of the GAO High-Risk List”
- **March 15, 2005:** “Critical Mission: Ensuring the Success of the National Security Personnel System”
- **April 5, 2005:** “Monitoring CMS’ Vital Signs: Implementation of the 2006 Medicare Drug Benefit”
- **April 14, 2005:** “Passing the Buck: A Review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act”
- **April 21, 2005:** “Employing Federal Workforce Flexibilities: A Progress Report”
- **April 28, 2005:** “Waging War on Waste: An Examination of DoD’s Business Practices”
- **May 24, 2005:** “Safeguarding the Merit System: A Review of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel”
- **June 14, 2005:** “Finding and Fighting Fakes: Reviewing the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy”
- **June 15, 2005:** “Nominations hearing for Linda Springer, OPM Director, and District of Columbia Judges”
- **June 28, 2005:** “Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process”
- **July 14, 2005:** “The War on Terrorism: How Prepared is the Nation’s Capital?”
- **September 13, 2005:** “Nominations hearing for District of Columbia Judges, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Federal Labor Relations Authority”

- **September 27, 2005:** “Alternative Personnel Systems: Assessing Progress in the Federal Government”
- **October 6, 2005:** “From Factory to Foxhole: Improving DoD Logistics”
- **November 9, 2005:** “Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process, Part II”
- **November 17, 2005:** “From Proposed to Final: Evaluating Regulations for the National Security Personnel System”

In 2006, Senator Voinovich continued his strong oversight agenda with 13 hearings focusing on various government management issues:

- **February 28, 2006:** “Enhancing Educational and Economic Opportunity in the District of Columbia”
- **March 15, 2006:** “Programs in Peril: An Overview of the GAO High-Risk List Part II”
- **March 29, 2006:** “The War on Terrorism: How Prepared in the Nation’s Capital? (Part II)”
- **March 30, 2006:** “Fulfilling the Promise? A Review of Veterans’ Preference in the Federal Government”
- **April 12, 2006:** “Preparing for Transition: Implementation of the National Security Personnel System”
- **May 17, 2006:** “Progress or More Problems: Assessing the Federal Government’s Security Clearance Process”
- **June 27, 2006:** “The Right People? Oversight of the Office of Personnel Management”
- **June 29, 2006:** “Enhancing Employee Performance: A Hearing on Pending Legislation”
- **July 18, 2006:** “Examining the Challenges the District will Face Today, Tomorrow, and in the Future”
- **July 25, 2006:** “Supporting the Warfighter: Assessing the DoD Supply Chain Management Plan”
- **July 26, 2006:** “A Progress Report on Protecting and Enforcing Intellectual Property Rights Here and Abroad”
- **September 26, 2006:** “Senior Executives: Leading the Way in Federal Workforce Reforms”
- **September 28, 2006:** “Securing the National Capital Region: An Examination of the NCR’s Strategic Plan”

Strategic Human Capital

Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce

Senator Voinovich has continued his commitment to addressing the future workforce needs of the federal government with a comprehensive oversight agenda. In the past five years, more reform has been enacted to the federal civil service than in the previous 25 years. Senator Voinovich has worked on a bipartisan basis to enact several major reforms for both the government as a whole and individual agencies; however, he recognizes that enacting legislation is only the first step in effecting reform. Senator Voinovich has made vigorous oversight of these reforms a priority to ensure federal agencies are using the flexibilities to recruit and retain a highly-skilled, effective workforce. Federal agencies simply must have the right people in order to effectively respond to the government’s current and emerging challenges.

On February 10, 2005, Senator Voinovich held a Subcommittee hearing to evaluate the final regulations for the new personnel system at the Department of Homeland Security. The hearing, entitled, “Unlocking the Potential within Homeland Security: the New Personnel System,” continued to stress the need for cooperation and open dialogue between the Department’s management and employees during implementation of the regulations. Furthermore, Senator Voinovich worked with the administration and the Senate Committee on Appropriations to ensure adequate funding was provided to DHS as it continues with these important reforms. Furthermore, Senator Voinovich has worked with the Senate

Appropriations Committee to ensure the Department has the appropriate resources to support the training necessary to make implementation successful.

During an April 21, 2005, human capital oversight hearing, “Employing Federal Workforce Flexibilities: A Progress Report,” Senator Voinovich conducted a review of recently enacted government-wide workforce flexibilities available to federal agencies. Participating in the hearing were representatives from the Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health and Human Services, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Through witness testimony, Senator Voinovich has been able to identify significant progress by federal departments and agencies in implementation, understanding, and use of the flexibilities, as well as identify areas of continued concern. OPM has improved its guidance and training programs for federal departments and agencies; in turn, agencies have progressed in utilizing the flexibilities in a strategic manner.

Senator Voinovich chaired two Subcommittee hearings, on March 15, 2005, and April 12, 2006, to discuss the proposed regulations for the new personnel system at the Department of Defense (DoD), the National Security Personnel System. He also co-chaired the November 17, 2005, and September 20, 2006, hearings of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the final regulations. Senator Voinovich continues to encourage the Department to work with its employee organizations to educate employees and develop understanding that will support implementation. Although much hard work remains to be done on implementation, the reforms underway at DoD are imperative in assisting it retain and recruit the workforce necessary to meet its national security mission.

As the Department moves forward with implementation of the National Security Personnel System, Senator Voinovich has sponsored several bills to modify NSPS as a result of his oversight. In July, 2006, for example, Senator Voinovich introduced S. 3692, to extend the date on which the National Security Personnel System will first apply to certain defense laboratories. This bill would extend from October 30, 2008, to October 30, 2011, the earliest date Department of Defense laboratories operating alternative personnel systems could be incorporated into the National Security Personnel System. Senator Voinovich will work to ensure passage of the legislation during the 110th Congress.

Through a human capital oversight hearing on September 27, 2005, entitled “Alternative Personnel Systems: Assessing Progress in the Federal Government,” Senator Voinovich sought to identify broad principles of lessons learned through federal departments and agencies that have developed personnel systems different from the traditional civil service scheme. The Department of Commerce, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology shared with the Subcommittee their experiences in developing, implementing and managing pay-for-performance systems. Senator Voinovich believes identifying and discussing these experiences is crucial as the administration continues to seek additional flexibilities and reforms.

Recognizing the need for the United States government to honor its responsibility to its veterans, Senator Voinovich called a Subcommittee hearing on March 30, 2006, “Fulfilling the Promise? A Review of Veterans’ Preference in the Federal Government.” The hearing evaluated the federal government’s commitment to its veterans through preference in hiring practices, as well as the impact recently enacted hiring flexibilities have had on agencies’ adherence to veterans’ preference. As the number of veterans continues to increase, it is important to ensure the federal government maintains its promise. Senator Voinovich encouraged the Office of Personnel Management to work more closely with various veteran service organizations to improve communication between federal agencies and our nation’s veterans and to ensure veterans understand the opportunities and rights available in federal employment. As a result, OPM expanded its outreach program in several ways, including the opening of a veterans’ outreach center at Brooke Army Medical Center and a simplified VetsGuide that provides servicemen and women with clear guidance on the federal benefits available to them.

As the federal government better responds to the needs of its workforce, Senator Voinovich recognizes that a strong Office of Personnel Management is necessary to guide agencies. On June 27,

2006, Senator Voinovich chaired the hearing “The Right People? Oversight of the Office of Personnel Management” to evaluate whether OPM is positioned to be the federal government’s leader in personnel policy today and in the future. OPM is the senior advisor to the president on civil service matters, and its leadership is imperative to ensuring the federal government recruits and retains a talented 21st century workforce following the retirement of the Baby Boomer generation. Senator Voinovich expressed concern over the low ratings employees of the Office of Personnel Management gave the senior leadership of the agency. He requested the new director continue her commitment to making institutional changes to empower OPM employees and prepare them to lead strategic human capital management throughout the federal government. OPM has done so by strengthening its efforts to achieve accountability through responsible leadership, evidenced by its strategic plan.

Continuing oversight of legislative workforce reforms, Senator Voinovich chaired a hearing titled, “Senior Executives: Leading the Way in Federal Workforce Reforms,” on September 26, 2006. Each department and agency has been developing a pay-for-performance system for the members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) at their agency. In order for pay-for-performance to be successful throughout any organization, the senator believes strongly that it must start from the top. The senator expressed concern with the results of an employee survey conducted by the Senior Executives Association. Consistent with Senator Voinovich’s direction, OPM is working with stakeholders to ensure the new pay-for-performance system is fair and transparent.

Concerned about the trend of authorizing departments and agencies, independent from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), to waive the salary offset requirement for federal retirees who return to work for the federal government, Senator Voinovich requested in March that OPM consider this matter and make recommendations for moving forward. On July 21, 2006, OPM issued a proposed regulation to amend regulations allowing pension offset waivers for circumstances other than emergencies. This enhanced flexibility will make another tool available to agencies while maintaining the oversight function of OPM.

Senator Voinovich remains concerned about the workforce challenges confronting agencies with a large number of scientific, technical and engineering employees. He has requested the Government Accountability Office analyze the strategic human capital challenges of selected agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the number of individuals graduating with degrees in those fields decreases, and the demand for their skills in both public and private sectors continues to increase, the federal government must focus on how it can compete to recruit and retain this highly skilled workforce. Senator Voinovich will review the GAO reports, expected to be published in 2007, to ensure the agency’s workforce plans are robust enough to meet the heightened missions they face.

Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act

In 1991, Congress enacted legislation to allow federal agencies to repay federal employees’ student loans. While this authority now is being used regularly by federal agencies to attract and keep high-quality employees, this benefit is taxed as income, effectively reducing its beneficial impact by approximately one-third. The Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005, sponsored by Senator Voinovich, seeks to amend the tax code to make such reimbursements non-taxable. This change will help federal agencies recruit and retain well-qualified graduates, and the government will no longer undermine its own loan repayment recruitment incentive. Senator Voinovich will push for its enactment during the next Congress.

Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act

Through conducting vigorous oversight of the personnel reforms underway at the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, Senator Voinovich recognized the cultural challenges to such comprehensive reforms. He saw that even effective performance management will take years to be successfully implemented and internalized by those departments. Therefore, the senator introduced legislation to layer a pay-for-performance system on top of the existing General Schedule. The Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act would strengthen the performance appraisal process for federal employees and require a successful performance appraisal in order to receive the annual salary adjustment. In addition, the bill requires supervisors be provided appropriate managerial skills training. Finally, it would authorize agencies to develop pay-for-performance systems and pay higher salaries to individuals hired as senior level or senior technical experts, consistent with existing authorities for the Senior Executive Service. Senator Voinovich has implemented pay-for-performance before, and it can work. However, it requires a significant commitment of behalf of managers and leaders. Senator Voinovich will introduce this legislation again next year, and will continue to work with his colleagues to empower the federal workforce, making it more efficient and better able to serve the American taxpayer.

Government Management

Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs

Senator Voinovich continues to focus his attention on improving the performance of federal programs. Beginning in 1990, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued its biannual high-risk report, which examines the challenges faced by federal programs and operations and recommends ways to improve their performance and accountability. Many of the programs on the GAO high-risk list are dysfunctional and fail to deliver the intended services to the taxpayer. In other instances they are wasting huge sums of money that could be better used for higher priority programs or cutting the deficit. Senator Voinovich held two hearings during the 109th Congress to examine the high-risk list, the first on February 17, 2005, and the second on March 15, 2006. These hearings provided a general overview of the GAO high-risk list and, more importantly, greater oversight of these programs. Additionally, at the request of Senator Voinovich, the Office of Management and Budget worked with GAO to develop strategic plans to address each high-risk area. These strategic plans allow OMB, GAO, the agencies involved, and Congress to better assess progress with the goal of eventually removing these programs from the high-risk list.

Improving the Department of Defense's Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter

Following the initial high-risk hearing, Senator Voinovich embarked on a comprehensive review of the Department of Defense's supply chain management process. Senator Voinovich held three hearings related to supply chain management in the 109th Congress. The first was "Waging War on Waste: An Examination of DoD's Business Practices," on April 28, 2005; the second was "From Factory to Foxhole: Improving DoD Logistics," on October 6, 2005; and the third was "Supporting the Warfighter: Assessing the DoD Supply Chain Management Plan" on July 15, 2006. Simply put, the goal of supply chain management is to deliver the "right items to the right place at the right time" for America's fighting men and women.

There are two overarching principles to the senator's interest and involvement for improving the supply chain management process. First, with a budget of over \$420 billion, and \$77 billion worth of items in its inventory, DoD must be a better steward of the taxpayers' money. Second, inefficient, ineffective, and redundant steps within the supply chain have a direct and immediate impact on American soldiers on the battlefield. Since the supply chain management issue has been on the GAO high-risk list since 1990, Senator Voinovich is committed to conducting comprehensive oversight through his

Subcommittee to ensure that the Department of Defense improves this vital function. As a result of Senator Voinovich's attention on this issue, DoD collaborated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to develop a strategic plan that provides a roadmap for removing the long-standing high-risk designation from the Department's supply chain management initiative. Successful implementation of the plan, through continued collaboration between DoD, OMB, and GAO, will result in marked improvements in the supply chain management process. Senator Voinovich will continue to hold these agencies accountable for results through oversight hearings until supply-chain management is removed from the high-risk list.

Improving the Federal Government's Security Clearance Procedures

The second high-risk area under examination is the federal security clearance process. Since 2004, a number of changes have occurred to improve the federal government's security clearance process. First, in an effort to streamline and improve the security clearance investigation process, section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 authorized the transfer of DoD's personnel security investigative function to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This included the transfer of 1,578 investigative employees. Under this directive, DoD retained the responsibility for adjudicating clearances for their military, civilian and contracting workforce. Second, in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, Senator Voinovich offered an amendment to enhance and consolidate the federal government's security clearance process. This amendment was drafted based on specific recommendations outlined in the 9/11 Commission Report. Third, in January 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated the federal government's security clearance process as high-risk. Finally, on June 27, 2005, President Bush issued Executive Order 13381, which designates the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the executive branch agency responsible for setting the policy for the security clearance process.

Senator Voinovich remains committed to fixing a process that has serious implications for the ability of the federal government's national security workforce to get the job done. The cumbersome, lengthy process delays the timely hire of highly-skilled individuals for sensitive positions within the federal government, hampering the nation's national security agencies' capacity to meet their heightened missions. Currently, OPM faces a backlog of approximately 61,150 security clearances. Senator Voinovich chaired three oversight hearings during the 109th Congress to monitor the progress in improving the security clearance process: "Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process, Part I" on June 28, 2005; Part II on November 9, 2005; and "Progress or More Problems: Assessing the Federal Government's Security Clearance Process" on May 17, 2006. During the May 2006 hearing, Senator Voinovich addressed the temporary halt by the Defense Security Service (DSS) in processing DoD security clearances for industry personnel. As a result of his oversight, DSS developed and is in the process of implementing a long-term plan to resolve this systemic problem. OPM reduced the number awaiting clearance investigations by 36 percent in 2006. Senator Voinovich will continue his oversight efforts in the 110th Congress, beginning with a Subcommittee hearing to examine the detrimental impact the protracted security clearance process is having on industry's ability to support the Department in getting the job done. Senator Voinovich will work to implement recommendations identified by GAO to improve the timeliness of granting clearances for industry personnel.

Review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

As governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich was instrumental in securing the passage of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) in 1995. As Chairman of the National Governors Association, then-Governor Voinovich requested a first of its kind study to examine the impact of unfunded mandates on state and local governments. The report illustrated the growing problem imposed by mandates in Ohio and other states, and underscored the importance of enacting federal unfunded mandate legislation in

Congress. UMRA was designed to address concerns expressed by state and local governments about federal laws and regulations that require nonfederal parties to expend resources to achieve federal goals without being provided funding to cover the costs. The goal of UMRA, therefore, was to promote informed decisions by Congress on the appropriateness of federal mandates on other levels of government, and on the desirability of providing financial assistance for the costs of intergovernmental mandates.

As part of his federalism agenda, Senator Voinovich chaired an oversight hearing on April 14, 2005, entitled “Passing the Buck: A Review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.” The hearing provided a ten-year retrospective review of the impact that UMRA has had on federal, state and local governments, and explored whether changes are necessary to strengthen the law’s procedures, definitions and exclusions. Senator Voinovich is working with state and local government organizations, including the National Governors Association, to review any potential legislative solutions required for updating and enhancing UMRA. In addition, during the first session of the 109th Congress, Senator Voinovich worked to include a provision in the Senate budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 18, to reform the UMRA enforcement mechanism procedures by elevating the point-of-order from a simple majority to sixty votes in the Senate, a major victory for strengthening UMRA.

Homeland Security

As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senator Voinovich is dedicated to protecting the American homeland and has been active on a variety of homeland security-related issues, including federal emergency management reform; the development of chemical security and port security legislation; monitoring the Department of Homeland Security’s progress in transformation and integration; improving resources and tools for first responders; and oversight of homeland security spending and grant distribution methods to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as effectively as possible. Throughout the Committee’s consideration of homeland security policy, Senator Voinovich has consistently advocated a sensible, efficient approach based on risk management.

Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security

The signing of the Homeland Security Act on November 25, 2002, initiated the federal government’s largest restructuring since the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947. The new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is charged with the complex mission of securing the nation from terrorism and natural hazards through protection, prevention, response and recovery. Simultaneously, the leadership of DHS must contend with the major organizational, operational and cultural issues associated with large mergers as they continue to unify the Department’s 185,000 employees from 22 disparate federal agencies. Senator Voinovich believes that overcoming these management challenges is vital to the Department’s success. Without sound management practices, the operational missions that are so important to protecting our homeland could be compromised.

In order to address the significant challenges associated with integrating DHS, which has become the third largest cabinet agency, Senator Voinovich has engaged in vigorous oversight of the Department, and will continue working to ensure DHS has the proper tools to make necessary improvements in its operations. On September 15, 2005, he introduced S. 1712, the Homeland Security Management Restructuring Act of 2005. The legislation would create a Deputy Secretary for Management to provide essential management expertise and sustained leadership necessary for improving the long-term efficiency and effectiveness of DHS. Senator Voinovich also co-sponsored S. 1866, the Homeland Security Policy Act of 2005. This legislation, written in response to Secretary Chertoff’s recommendations under his Second Stage Management Review of DHS, would establish a Directorate for Policy headed by an Undersecretary for Policy, who would serve as the Secretary’s principal policy advisor. Senator Voinovich will continue to closely monitor the Department’s transformation during the next Congress.

Improving Federal Emergency Management and Disaster Relief Policy

Senator Voinovich has devoted significant attention to improving emergency management at all levels of government in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Senator Voinovich actively participated in the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' investigation of Hurricane Katrina, which included 22 hearings. The investigation reviewed the factors that contributed to the inadequate response in the Gulf Coast in an effort to identify the most appropriate solutions to strengthening our federal emergency preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.

Senator Voinovich believes strongly in developing a more robust national emergency management system, capable of responding to both natural disasters and acts of terrorism, in order to prevent future devastation and suffering on the scale of Hurricane Katrina. He remains committed to continued oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the agency is operating as effectively as possible by ensuring that optimal leadership, staffing levels, training and resources are in place.

In August 2006, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reported S. 3721, The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. Senator Voinovich worked closely with his colleagues in crafting this legislation, which is intended to address many of the weaknesses in federal disaster preparedness, response and recovery that were exposed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The bill would: (1) reorganize federal emergency management components within the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to strengthen and better integrate preparedness and response functions throughout DHS; (2) bolster FEMA's workforce through additional training and educational opportunities combined with enhanced recruitment incentives; (3) develop a national strategy for enhancing interoperable communications for first responders; (4) expand and improve federal Stafford Act assistance to better meet the needs of disaster victims; (5) foster greater coordination between DHS and state and local governments and improve disaster planning; and (6) combat waste, fraud and abuse by strengthening contracting regulations and improving methods for processing benefits claims from disaster victims.

During the Committee's consideration of S. 3721, Senator Voinovich proposed a number of common-sense improvements that were incorporated into the bill, including a provision encouraging greater attention to hazard mitigation and hazard resistant building design; a provision directing FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to improve coordination on their overlapping missions to lessen the impact of disasters; a provision to encourage the federal government to increase consultation with states in developing preparedness standards; and a provision limiting the scope of the FEMA reorganization in order to minimize disruption and confusion at the agency.

Most of Senator Voinovich's recommended provisions were included in the FEMA reform package passed by Congress on September 29, 2006, as part of the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector

Senator Voinovich has worked closely with Committee Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME) to address a variety of homeland security concerns. With the knowledge that terrorism is a persistent threat, there is heightened concern about the security of the nation's chemical industry. During the 109th Congress, the full Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held four hearings on the issue, and Senator Voinovich worked closely with his colleagues to craft meaningful legislation.

Senator Voinovich is keenly aware that the chemical industry plays a key role in our nation's high quality of life, whether it is crop production, temperature control, water chlorination, household cleaners or life-saving medications. In Ohio, the chemical industry directly employs 48,900 people; each one of these jobs creating an additional 6.2 jobs. Though the senator acknowledges the work that the industry has done to self-regulate in the absence of federal action, it has become increasingly clear that the federal

government must provide a framework for the prevention of and protection against terrorist attacks that would compromise this nation's critical infrastructure.

The chemical industry is experiencing economic hardship as a result of rising natural gas costs. According to the American Chemistry Council, the U.S. chemical industry went from posting trade surpluses in excess of \$20 billion in 1995 to becoming a net importer of chemicals with a \$9 billion deficit in 2005. This has impacted industry jobs. For example, an official from Bayer warned several years ago that jobs would be sent overseas unless something was done about high prices, and since they remain high, their U.S. employment has been reduced from 22,000 jobs in 2002 to 14,000. Senator Voinovich has worked to ensure that onerous federal requirements do not further jeopardize the industry's viability. Senator Voinovich worked to craft legislation that protects this nation's chemical sector from the threat of terrorism, while ensuring that the chemical sector continues to enhance our quality of life. His efforts resulted in enactment of a provision, as part of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2006, directing DHS to (1) establish risk-based and performance-based standards for chemical facilities to protect against terrorist attacks; (2) offer strong protection of sensitive security information; (3) provide adequate liability protection and due process; and (4) give credit for measures already taken by industry to protect their infrastructure. The provisions, which represent two years of work and negotiation with his colleagues, represent a major step forward in Senator Voinovich's efforts to better secure our homeland.

Securing the National Capital Region

In 2006, the nation observed the five year anniversary of 9/11. This anniversary is a reminder of the threat that still looms in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the need to be diligent in every aspect of securing the region. Because the NCR is the seat of the federal government, Senator Voinovich held three hearings during the 109th Congress examining the region's preparedness. During these hearings it became evident that the NCR lacked a strategic plan. Due to Senator Voinovich's oversight, the region developed a strategic plan to serve as a roadmap to guide federal, state and local agencies when responding to a terrorist attack or natural disaster, an important step in protecting our homeland.

District of Columbia and U.S. Postal Reform

Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia

In 1999, Senator Voinovich worked to enact the District of Columbia College Access Act, which created the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (D.C. TAG) program. The aim of this program is to assist District students who do not have access to state-supported education systems attend college. D.C. TAG scholarships are used by District residents to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at state universities nationwide, up to \$10,000 per student per school year, with a cumulative cap of \$50,000 per student. Since 2002, District students attending private institutions in Maryland and Virginia, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide, have been eligible to receive annual tuition grants under the program of \$2,500 with a cumulative cap of \$12,500 per student.

Since the first grants were awarded in 2000, the program has dispersed over \$98 million to over 8,400 District students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. District high school graduating seniors have seen a 28 percent increase in college attendance since 2000. Furthermore, 75 percent of District students said that D.C. TAG made a difference in their decision to continue their education beyond high school, and 65 percent of District students have indicated that D.C. TAG has enabled them to choose a college that best suits their educational needs.

Due to the overwhelming success and positive impact of this program, Senator Voinovich introduced S. 2060, a bill to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 for five years. Senator Voinovich will continue to work with his colleagues, backed by a wide range of supporters including the U.S. Department of Education, the United Negro College Fund and The Washington Post to ensure enactment of the reauthorization during the 110th Congress.

Better Management in the District of Columbia

As Chairman of the Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, Senator Voinovich understands the special relationship between the federal government and the District of Columbia. Because of this relationship, Congress shares in the responsibility of ensuring that the nation's capital remains an economically, socially and culturally vibrant city. Senator Voinovich advanced H.R. 3508, the 2005 D.C. Omnibus Authorization Act, through the Senate. The bill authorizes a variety of District of Columbia local decisions and policies requiring Congressional approval that have already been approved by the mayor and city council. The bill became law on October 16, 2006.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich introduced S. 1838, the Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act of 2005, proposed by the Bush Administration and supported by the District government, which would transfer underutilized federal land to the District of Columbia. Through this transfer of land, the District would gain the ability to spur economic development, better address the needs of its citizens and increase the local tax base. Senator Voinovich was successful in guiding the bill through Committee and a companion bill has passed the House. The Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act became law on December 15, 2006.

Sustaining the Postal Service

The Postal Service provides a vital communication and economic link for Ohio, the nation and the world. Because of the importance of the Postal Service, Senator Voinovich is co-sponsor of S. 662, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005. This is comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that would sustain the Postal Service for years to come and put the Postal Service on solid financial footing. The bill endorses the basic features that many Ohioans depend on such as universal service, affordable rates, frequent delivery and convenient community access to retail Postal services. Senator Voinovich played a vital role in assuring passage of the bill in the Senate and a companion bill passed in the House. Senator Voinovich was named as a conferee on the Postal reform conference. The bill became law on December 20, 2006.

Comments and Quotes on Human Capital

"Some of the least noticed hearings being held in Washington should have a large, lasting impact on homeland security. Ohio Sen. George Voinovich chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia, which is part of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. These boring-sounding bodies follow the nuts-and-bolts functioning of federal agencies, a task that may get more notice in the post-Katrina world." Editorial, ***Levees' Breach Exposes Bigger Weaknesses***, Dayton Daily News, November 17, 2005

"Characteristically, Voinovich devoted most of his time last week to what he typically focuses on: trying to bring some modicum of organization and oversight to a Senate that has a lot more pontificators than managers.... It's easy to make fun of Voinovich, or to call him boring or overly obsessed with administrative minutiae. Much of Voinovich's work is done in a much less-than sensational manner, but the Senate could use a few more lawmakers who care more about making the trains run on time than ratcheting up the rhetoric."

Column, ***Voinovich Avoids the Rhetoric While Working to Get Things Done***, Columbus Dispatch, October 9, 2005

"Veteran Voinovich watchers are fully acquainted with his devotion to the practical. He likes to get things done.... That sensibility extends to his understanding of the importance of an effective federal work force."

Editorial, ***Full Voinovich in Full View***, Akron Beacon Journal, May 15, 2005

“Anyone who has watched the political career of Republican Senator George Voinovich can recite his mantra for government efficiency: ‘Work harder and smarter, and do more with less.’ But the corollary of his approach has been a demonstrated respect for the workers so tasked – the cogs in the wheels of government operations, the ‘human capital’ in whose interests Voinovich has invested so much time in his years in the Senate, as Ohio’s governor and Cleveland’s mayor. Demand more, yes; but honor and reward good efforts as well.”

Editorial, *A Delay, by George: When Senator Voinovich Threw a Wrench in Bolton hearings, He Was Only Being True to Form and to His Principles*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 22, 2005

“In the Senate, he has pushed initiatives aimed at improving the federal government’s hiring practices and has chided federal agencies that cut back on training programs for employees. At congressional hearings, he often tries to emphasize the positive and encourages efforts to create a smarter and more efficient federal workforce.”

Column, *Ohio Senator Known For Independence; Bolton Stance Illustrates Personnel Focus*, Washington Post, May 10, 2005

“Senator Voinovich is someone willing to labor in some of the least glamorous vineyards in order to bring out the best wine. He takes his public service role seriously and understands where he can make the biggest difference for the American people.”

Max Stier, President of the Nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, May 9, 2005

Comments and Quotes on GAO High-Risk List

“Subcommittee Chairman George Voinovich, R-Ohio, was so impressed with the administration’s plan that he said GAO might be compelled to remove the Defense Department’s security clearance program from its biennial list of programs with major management challenges. GAO added the clearance program to its high-risk list in January.”

News Article, *OPM speeds security clearances: Top-secret case backlog cut 25% – and may shrink more*, Federal Times, November 14, 2005

“GAO deserves applause for targeting the government’s severest trouble spots. But it can only do so much. It is a relief that Voinovich and Johnson have committed themselves to go after perhaps the biggest of the government’s chronic money-wasters – the Defense Department. Let’s hope they can deliver enough clout to finally turn things around.”

Editorial, *Reaching stubborn DoD*, Federal Times, February 21, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Hurricane Katrina

“Senator Voinovich has developed an impressive factual mastery both of the technical and human dimensions of Hurricane Katrina and the federal government’s response. To what end? Partly to provide a public accounting of federal agencies’ planning and performance, not just in New Orleans but through much of the Gulf Coast.”

Editorial, *Levees’ Breach Exposes Bigger Weaknesses*, Dayton Daily News, November 17, 2005

Awards and Honors

Recognition for Senator Voinovich's Work in 2005 and 2006

Economic Development

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award for support of pro-business issues during the second session of the 108th Congress. March 2005
- The Farm Bureau Federation's "Friend of Farm Bureau Award" for commitment to the agriculture industry during the 108th Congress. March 2005
- The National Association of Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence for a favorable voting record on manufacturing issues. March 2005
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award for his support of pro-business issues during the first session of the 109th Congress. March 2006
- The 2006 Congressional Partnership Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for his outstanding leadership in promoting federal community, economic and transportation development programs. March 2006
- A Congressional Partnership Award from the Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association for outstanding leadership in advancing regional economic development in the 109th Congress. The award specifically recognized Senator Voinovich's championship of the Appalachian Regional Commission. April 2006
- The 2006 Thomas Jefferson Award from the International Foodservice Distributors Association for sharing the food service industry's commitment to free enterprise. July 2006
- The National Federation of Independent Businesses' "Guardian of Small Business" award for his commitment to small business in the 109th Congress. September 2006

Foreign Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security

- The National Emergency Management Association's 2005 Congressional Recognition Award for work in recognizing the importance of emergency management and homeland security. February 2005
- The Decoration of the Golden Order of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia for leadership in the Senate on issues dealing with Slovenia and Southeast Europe. May 2005
- The Centennial Congressional Leadership Award from the American Jewish Committee for his longstanding commitment to the Jewish community. May 2006
- The Rabbi Eliezer Silver Humanitarian Award for Distinguished Service in Fighting Hate for his work in fighting anti-Semitism. June 2006

Environmental

- The Congressional Partnership and Conservation Award for 2006 from the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service. March 2006

Public Service, Civic and Charitable

- The Jobs for Ohio's Graduates award in appreciation of outstanding record of commitment to Jobs for Ohio's Graduates and Ohio's youth. March 2005
- The Cleveland Club of Washington, D.C., Harold Hitz Burton Award for Distinguished Public Service and dedication to the people of Cleveland throughout his public service career. April 2005
- The Private Sector Council Leadership Award for work in reforming the federal workforce and making sure government programs and systems are well-managed. May 2005
- The Ohio University Alumnus of the Year Award for extraordinary dedication to his alma-mater. October 2005
- The Outstanding Leadership Award from the Vietnamese Community in Cleveland for his outstanding support to the Vietnamese Community in Cleveland. June 2006
- The 2006 Distinguished Community Health Superhero Award for his efforts in the first session of the 109th Congress on behalf of America's Health Centers, and the more than 15 million uninsured and medically underserved Americans who rely on them for affordable, effective primary health care. March 2006
- The Vision Award from the American Medical Student Association in recognition of his innovative leadership in reforming the U.S. health care system. July 2006